

Mexico

I. Easy Life in Middle America's Wonderland

By Hamilton Fyfe

Author of "The Real Mexico," etc.

LONG before Mexico was discovered by Cortés, and made by him the victim of Spanish greed and superstition, it was inhabited by a race which, so far as we can judge from what we know of it, developed a high and noble civilization. This was the Toltec race. In ages when the European peoples knew neither arts nor architecture, cultivated the soil ignorantly, had learned none of the possibilities of complicated mechanism, the Toltecs built temples and forts and palaces of which the ruins compel in us surprise and admiration. They showed that they understood a great deal of what we call to-day scientific agriculture, and had refined existence by many contrivances reintroduced in modern times.

What is commonly called the civilization of the Aztecs was in large part based upon the customs of their predecessors. Those aspects of it which displease and horrify us, such as the human sacrifices and the domination of a corrupt priesthood, were added by the Aztecs themselves; they had no place in the Toltec system.

Aztec Civilization at its Zenith

Why this system did not perpetuate the occupation of the valley of Mexico by the race which brought it into being has never been discovered. All that is known is that the Toltecs disappeared. Some believe that they died out through abusing strong drink in the form of pulque, the fermented liquor of the maguey plant, which is still the favourite intoxicant of the Mexican labourer. Just enough of them remained, however, to hand on to the Aztecs something of the Toltec civilization, and in the course of two centuries a new system was

created which was praised for its order and its magnificence, even by those of Cortés' men who had seen all the countries of Europe.

All of that was barbarously swept away by the Spanish invaders. Prescott tells the story in his "Conquest of Mexico" with such skill as to give it a far more tense hold on the attention than that of most novels. Later historians have shown that he sometimes let his romantic imagination run faster than the cold, hard facts.

Ruin Wrought by Spanish Conquest

Details here and there may be doubtful, but the general truth of the picture cannot be disputed. He certainly justifies the indignation which he felt against the savagery, treachery, and complete disregard by the Spaniards of any impulses save those of cruelty and lust for gold. He does not hide the dark spots in the Aztec civilization, but he makes it clear that, despite these, much was lost by insensate destruction which throughout the intervening centuries has not been regained.

Until the beginning of the nineteenth century Mexico was ruled in the usual Spanish way. Now and then a viceroy would be sent from Spain who tried to improve conditions of existence. But most of them were men who strove to make themselves rich as quickly as they could, and valued their own power far above the welfare of the people put under their charge. Theoretically their administration was subject to official review when their term of office ended, but the inquiry was purely formal, and in fact their power was autocratic. The people as well as the land were deliberately exploited by their foreign rulers.



WHERE GRACE AND KEEN WITS ARE COMBINED

She is wearing the festive costume of the women of her race, the Tehuanas of Tehuantepec. In this old Indian town the women, who are noted for their good looks, play an important part in the commercial world; little menial work falls to their lot, and most of the trade is carried on by them—a fact not improbably due to the influence of their handsome faces

Photo, C. Mavor Hodgess

All the education was in the hands of the priests, and they taught unquestioning obedience to the authorities. In return for its help the Church was allowed to become enormously rich. Towards the end of Spanish rule one-

third of the entire wealth of Mexico was said to be in its possession. This included vast acreages of land both agricultural and urban, and after the separation from Spain in 1821 this influence was frequently used for the

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purpose of starting or assisting movements intended to overturn the republic and restore the old system.

With all their faults in European eyes the Mexicans are a pleasant folk, a smiling, kindly race. Fall in with their ways, adopt the philosophy which teaches that to-morrow is as good as to-day, and better; refuse to regard time as having any value, be careful to employ the graceful expressions which lubricate the wheels of social intercourse, enjoy the beauty of the sunshine, the clear air, the varied landscape, the flowers, and you will find Mexico, especially the temperate and the high regions, restful and fascinating, interesting and delightful.

If you enter the country from the United States by railway your first impression will be disappointing. For a long time the train runs through a desert of dry sand. Rain falls very seldom in these regions; sometimes years pass without any moisture relieving the drought. Except after rain or where there is irrigation, nothing grows through the dry seasons save the cactus, the prickly pear, and a feathery palm; so all this part of Mexico is left mainly to the rabbits, prairie dogs, horned toads, and other creatures which seem to thrive in it. Once during the revolutionary period that followed the downfall of Porfirio Diaz I drove from the Rio Grande del Norte,



DWELLERS ON A BANK OF THE MEXICAN CENTRAL RAILWAY

The houses of the peon class are mostly of a ramshackle poor type, and this snug railway hut would contrast handsomely with the usual adobe and wattle home. The housewife's life is a busy one, and much of her time is spent on the preparation of tortillas, maize mashed to a paste and baked in flat cakes, which form the staple of peon diet

Photo, C. Rider Noble



STRANGE MILLINERY MODELLED ON A BABY'S FROCK

Remarkable for their beauty of figure and carriage, the women of Tehuantepec are also renowned for their holiday headdress, the huipil. It represents the frock of a baby rescued from a wreck on the coast long ago, who brought luck to its saviours. It is either draped round the head and shoulders or worn like a huge bonnet, with the sleeves hanging loose behind

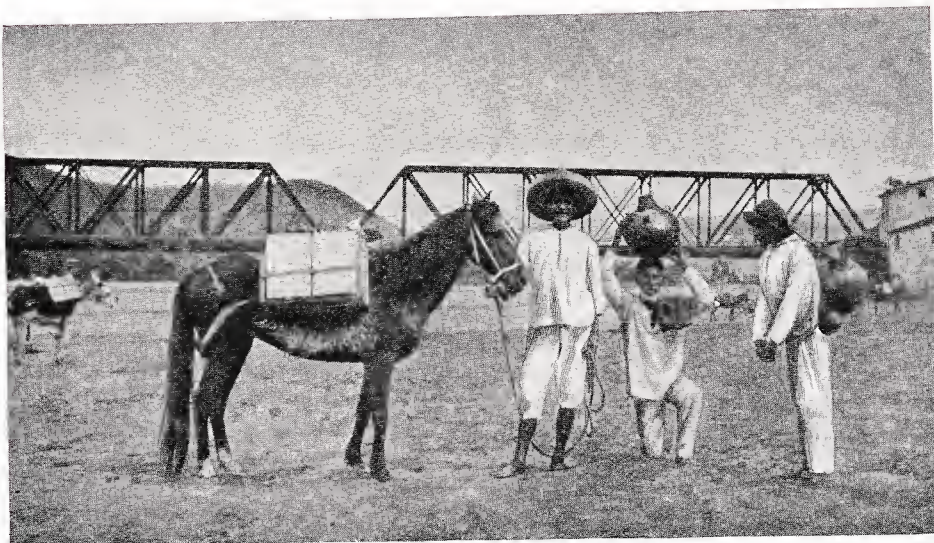
Photo, A. W. Cutler



GRACEFUL TEHUANAS OF THE SOUTH IN FRILLS AND FLOUNCES

Between the gulf of Campeche and the vast Pacific lies the isthmus of Tehuantepec, containing parts of the four states of Tabasco, Chiapas, Vera Cruz, and Oaxaca. The inhabitants are mostly descended from the great Zapotec race, especially those round Tehuantepec city in Oaxaca, where the women are noted beauties. Such are these maidens in the shadow of a cool colonnade

Photo, C. Rider Noble



WATER CARRYING IN THREE STYLES BY THE TEHUANTEPEC RIVER

Of three arduous methods of water transport, that including the horse must be infinitely preferable in the temperature found at these latitudes, especially on this soft, sandy strand by the Tehuantepec. The bridge seen in the distance carries that part of the National Railway of Mexico running from Puerto Mexico on the gulf of Campeche to Salina Cruz by the Pacific shore of Oaxaca

Photo, A. W. Cutler

which is the boundary between Mexico and the United States, to the city of Monterey. In the course of that hundred and fifty miles we passed through no villages and only three little towns. We drove one day from five o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon without meeting a soul.

It is because so much of the country is barren that the estates of the Mexican hacendados (landed proprietors) were, and are still in some parts, so enormous. The Terrazas family, reputed to be the holders of the biggest block of land, owned 17,000,000 acres. On their haciendas the landowners lived in feudal style. They bred cattle, did a little cultivation, made their property supply almost all their needs, except excitement, which they sought every now and then in a town.

Their labourers or peons were in a state little removed from slavery. Technically they were free to dispose of themselves and their labour as they chose, but, as they were almost all of them in debt to the hacendado, at whose shop they were obliged to deal, they were fixed to the soil. Seldom, indeed, did the idea of leaving it occur to them.

They have a deep attachment to the place where they were brought up, and, content with the simplest conditions of life, they have no desire to "better themselves" in the American way.

These peons are either Indians or half-breeds. The Indian is the more tractable, a harder worker; it is he who provides most of the labour in Mexico. He lives in a hut sometimes built of brick, more often made of mud or bamboo, size about fourteen feet by twelve; roof covered with wooden shingles or thatched with rush, and probably letting in water; the floor, of earth, damp after rain and at times muddy. On the earth are mats for sleeping. The family sleeps in its clothes, rolling itself up in blankets, which are worn as cloaks in the daytime if the weather is changeable.

There is no furniture as a rule, merely a stove, which fills the hut with smoke when it is lighted and whenever fresh wood is put on, the wood being generally green; a few pots and pans, a rough pestle and mortar, the pestle serving also as a rolling-pin. There is a small store of maize meal and of dried beans, perhaps a little coffee and sugar. The

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meal they make into flat cakes called tortillas, and the beans (*frijoles*) they eat in various ways. With that monotonous diet they are quite satisfied.

It sounds uncomfortable, wretched even, but the sun makes up to the Mexican for many of the comforts and luxuries of civilization which are considered indispensable in colder, damper climates. No Mexican houses are comfortable in the British or American sense. The men of all classes spend the greater part of their time in the open air or in clubs, offices, restaurants.

In the rooms where guests are received there is a chilly atmosphere of formality. The chairs are arranged with their backs to the wall in symmetrical order. They have covers on them. It is evident that they are seldom sat upon. In the rooms occupied by the women, who spend most of their time in the house, there is no respect for appearances. Here comfort reigns, but here visitors never penetrate; if they did, they would find it rather slipshod. For the Mexican woman who dresses so carefully to be seen in public flops about in a loose gown



UNSOPHISTICATED LIFE ON A TEHUANA INDIAN THRESHOLD

The trim roof of red tiles strikes the modern note in the otherwise primitive scene and forms a strange contrast to the walls of the homely dwelling constructed of carrizo or common reed grass. The lower-class Tehuana Indian women dress very briefly—a square of cloth and small upper garment complete their apparel, while the young children wander about quite naked.

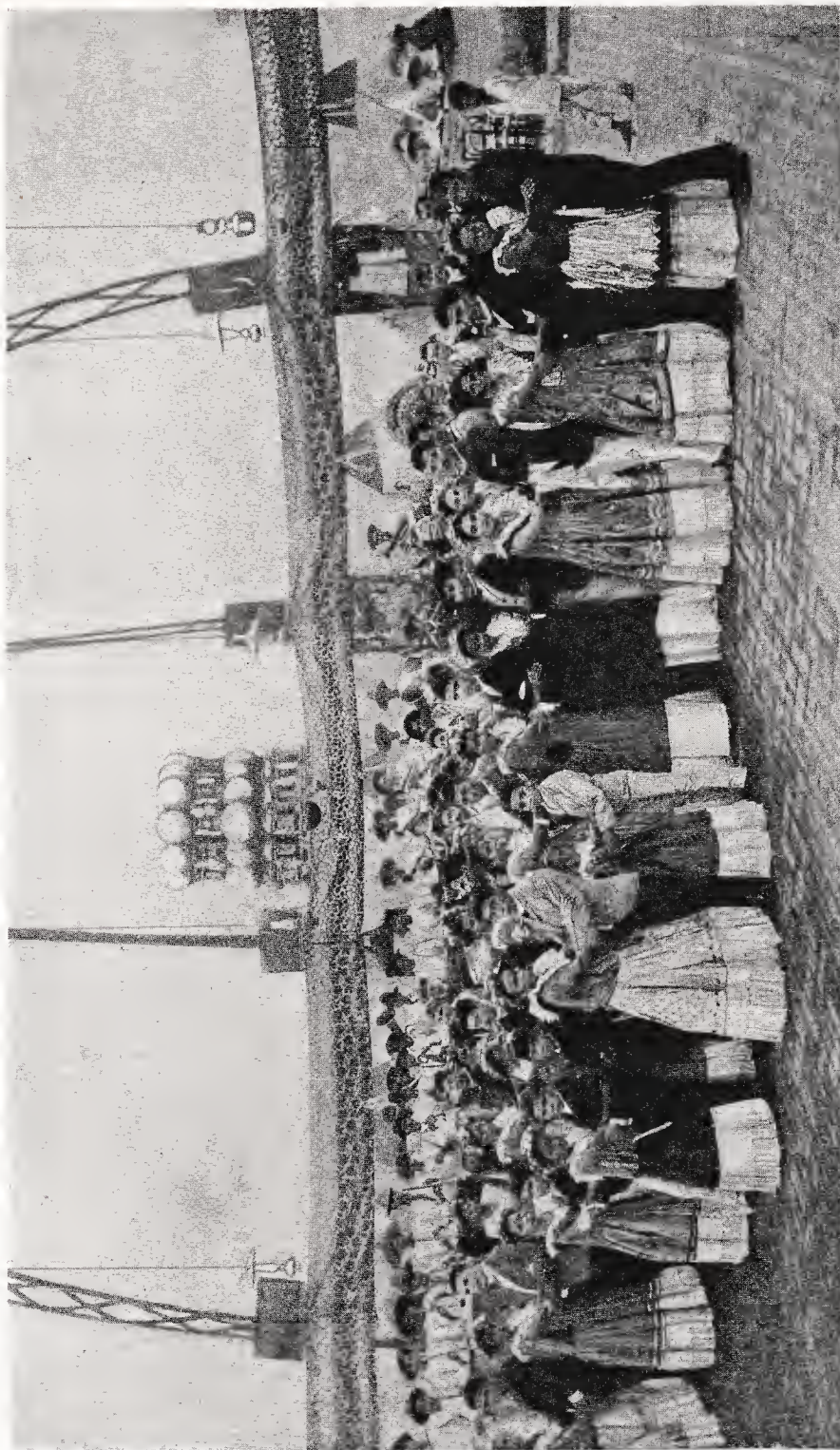
Photo, A. W. Culler



RAMSHACKLE MARKET AND ITS INDIAN SALESWOMEN AT AN INLAND TOWNSHIP

In front of the narrow entrance to the barber's shop over which is nailed a painted sign, and the dilapidated buildings on either side, squat the Indian women with their baskets of fruit and other market produce. Possible purchasers stroll past eyeing the goods, while the vendors cry their excellence and solicit custom. Against the white woodwork two dusky girls shyly watch the camera, but most remain absorbed in trade. The little town of Rincon Antonio is on the National Railway of Mexico, some sixty miles north of Salina Cruz

Photo. C. Mahoe Underwood



INDIAN BEAUTY AND GRACE GATHERED FOR A FESTIVAL DANCE IN A TEHUANTEPEC BALL-ROOM

Dances, solemn and gay, were a conspicuous feature of ancient Mexican pastime, and have remained a favourite relaxation with the modern Mexican Indian of Tehuantepec and elsewhere. A quaint, straggling town, Tehuantepec contains few pretentious features, thatched and mud-walled huts forming the bulk of the habitations. Its population, composed almost entirely of Indians belonging to the old Zapotec family, includes the Tehuanas, who have long been famed for the beauty and grace of their women, and are judged by many to be the handsomest among the Mexican native races

Photo, C. Mabey Hodges



POVERTY CORNER IN MEXICO'S PALATIAL CAPITAL

Violent contrasts abound in Mexico city. Within a few yards of magnificent residential quarters there are pestilent, filthy slums where scenes like this are common: a peon stretched out on the ground outside his squalid hut, taking his siesta, while his wife sits by him driving off the flies that otherwise would disturb him, and a dirty, unkempt child plays among the surrounding rubbish

Photo, C. Mabor Hodgess



SIMPLE COOKERY IN THE CRUDE SURROUNDINGS OF AN INDIAN HOME

On the worn and rough-looking fireplace of stone or adobe—sun-dried mud-bricks of native manufacture—the Indian housewife is stirring the contents of her saucepan that will presently provide the family meal. Wattle walls and earthen floor, with a reek of smoke from the grate that has no chimney, constitute the home atmosphere of these lowly dwellers of the western coast



WASHING-DAY IN THE TILED COURTYARD OF A TENEMENT HOUSE

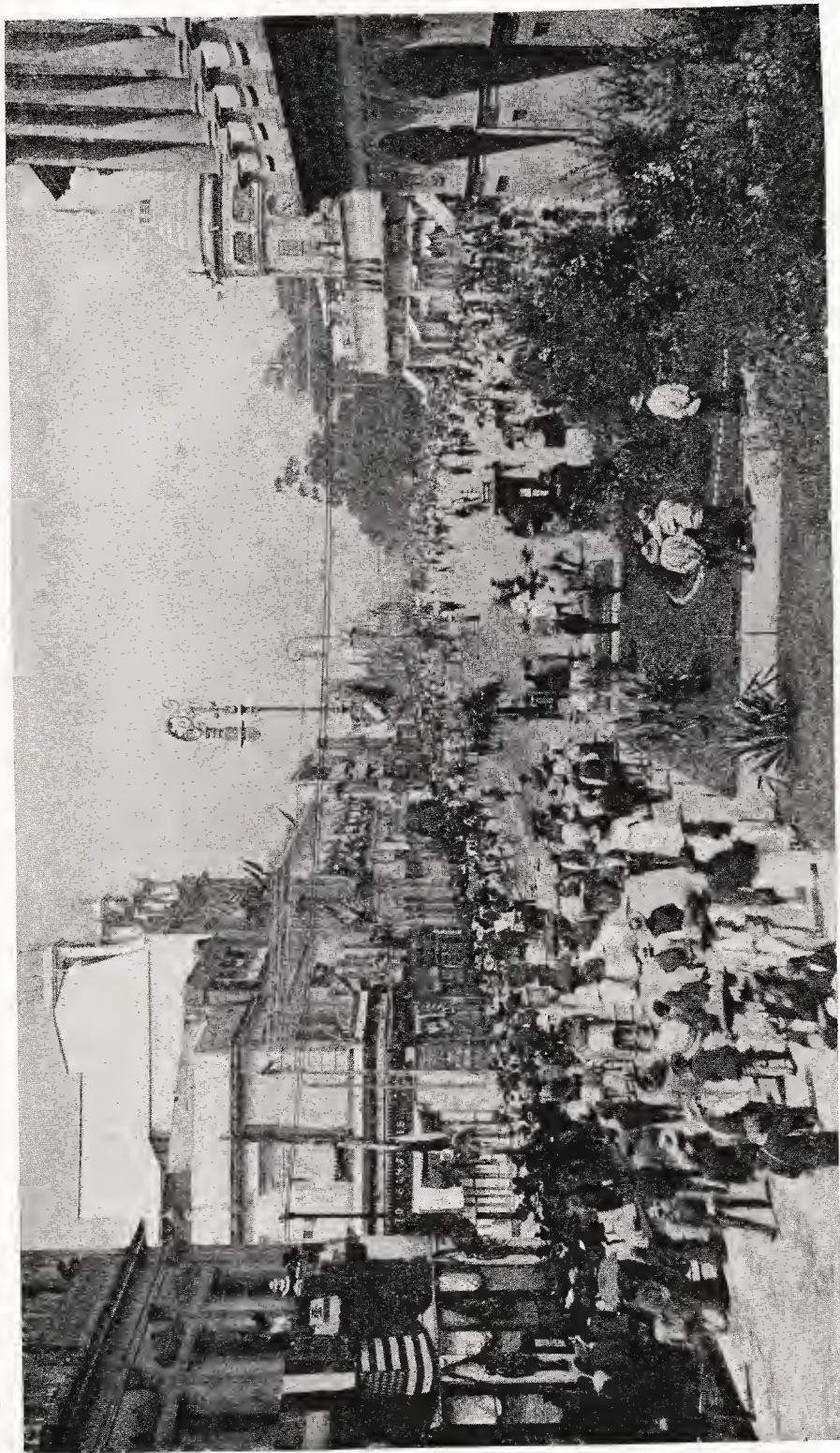
Small means often necessitate cramped quarters in Mexico, and here are a dozen families huddled in this three-sided building, though they are not so badly housed as some of the country folk. On each side of this sunny patio, or court, hang long poles from which the washing will wave, and the sturdy matrons of the place are hard at work over their troughs

Photo, A. Glin

and slippers when she is at home. If she is well-off, she is not likely to have much to occupy her, beyond making her toilette, petting her children (she is a most affectionate and indulgent mother), glancing at a book or newspaper, and looking out of the window. This last fills up a large part of her time. If she has a balcony, she stands on it, so as not to miss anything of the drama of daily existence. From this drama she is kept apart. When she goes abroad she drives. She is brought up, and continues to live after marriage, in an almost Oriental seclusion. So she watches it all with the most absorbed interest—from the first-floor window or

balcony. The windows of the ground floor are barred and present to the street a very inhospitable appearance. Inside there may be a charming patio, filled with flowers, open to the sky, with perhaps a fountain tinkling in the centre. But the women scarcely ever sit there. They prefer to look out on to the street, so as not to miss any little event of the day.

Through the barred windows the Mexican lover courts the girl of his choice. This is called "playing bear," and strikes the foreigner as a method of love-making designed to make a man look supremely ridiculous. The Mexican young man does not take that view



STREET SCENE IN A HANDSOME THOROUGHFARE OF MEXICO'S CAPITAL, THE FINEST CITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA
Mexico, the capital of the Republic and its largest city, is built in the form of a square, and makes an epitome of the manifold life of the country. Few capitals enjoy such a favoured position, for the city—founded by Cortés on the site of the Aztec capital in 1522—stands 7,000 feet above the sea in a rich valley girt by high, snow-clad mountains. Only scattered remains of the past are shown, but local colour is generously supplied by the populace, and Mexico presents few more absorbing spectacles than the main streets of her capital city

Photo, G. Rider Noble

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of it. "It is the custom." That is enough for him. He goes away well rewarded after hours of loafing if he has exchanged a whisper with his sweetheart, been given a hand to kiss. They may meet at the theatre, or at the races, or at a club dance, but all these meetings

have ball-rooms. Members are to be found mostly in the bar and the saloon attached to the bar. No inducement is offered to sit in the other apartments; all plush and mirrors, they remind one of a dentist's waiting-room; there are no lounging chairs, no tables littered



FÊTE-DAY IN MEXICO CITY, THE "VENICE OF THE AZTECS"

In former days Tenochtitlan, as the city was called, was so completely surrounded by lakes that the Aztecs easily defended its approaches against superior forces. Engineering ingenuity succeeded in ridding Mexico city of its superfluous waters. La Viga, an artificial canal, serves as an outlet for the overflow of the lakes, and as a waterway for native traders in flowers and vegetables

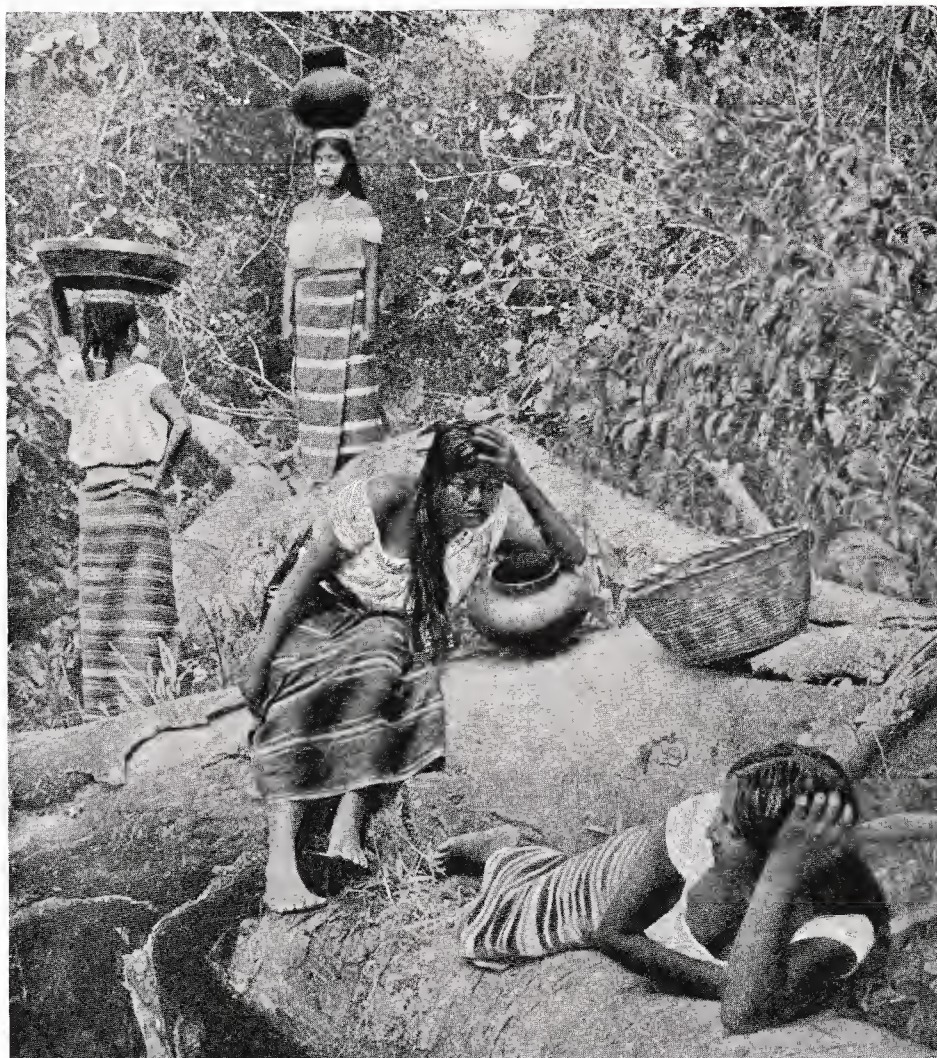
Photo, C. Mavor Hodgess

are carefully watched by parents and guardians. They are never alone together until they have been married, except in the evenings with the bars between them.

Mexican clubs exist as much for the entertainment of women as for the convenience and seclusion of men. They always admit the wives and daughters of members. They often

with magazines. Here is the same lack of comfort that is noticeable in the Mexican home.

The servant difficulty is less acute than in Europe; at any rate, the difficulty of getting servants is not so great. But when servants have been engaged, the householder finds that it is very hard to teach them anything and not easy to keep them. Unless



MAIDS OF MEXICO ENJOYING A SIESTA IN A FOREST RETREAT

The soles of their feet hardened like leather, they tramp with unconcern the rugged paths and overgrown byways where many a sandalled foot would fear to tread. With a ceaseless round of tasks claiming their youthful strength and energy, they enjoy to the full the moments when they may indulge in daydreams in the languid silence of the woodlands

Photo, Underwood Press Service

they are allowed to do their work in their own way they leave without notice, and their own way often leaves a great deal to be desired. The women servants wear their hair down their backs, either loose over their shoulders or in braided tails. They are pleasant and obliging if they are courteously treated, which is true of the people generally. A smile goes farther in Mexico than in most countries; any small politeness is rewarded by overwhelming appreciation.

This expansiveness of nature is not so much Spanish as Indian, though the Spaniard in many of the country districts of Spain shows a charming readiness to make friends. What the origin of these Mexican Indians may have been is in dispute. Clearly they are Asiatics. But whether the Indians who peopled Mexico before it was discovered by Europeans were descended from Asiatic immigrants, or whether Asia was invaded in the twilight of the

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human race by voyagers from the American continent, no one can tell. It is equally uncertain whether the sphinxes which are found in Mexico, and the remains of temples built like those of the Egyptians, were the result of the coming of people from Egypt to Mexico, or whether the ancestors of the Egyptians came from Mexico and brought their arts with them. Certainly there was a connexion between the two races; even their alphabets were alike.

The Chinese, Japanese, and Burmese type of face is common in Mexico. A famous regiment, the 29th, was on parade in Mexico city. A British officer watching the men

exclaimed: "They might be Japanese." Beetle-browed, with bright eyes set in expressionless features, stocky, short of stature, firmly set upon their feet, they suggested an unmistakable relationship. The mental characteristics of the Mexican confirm the suggestion; they are as much a mystery to Europeans as those of the Chinese. Those who have been longest in the country say they know the people least.

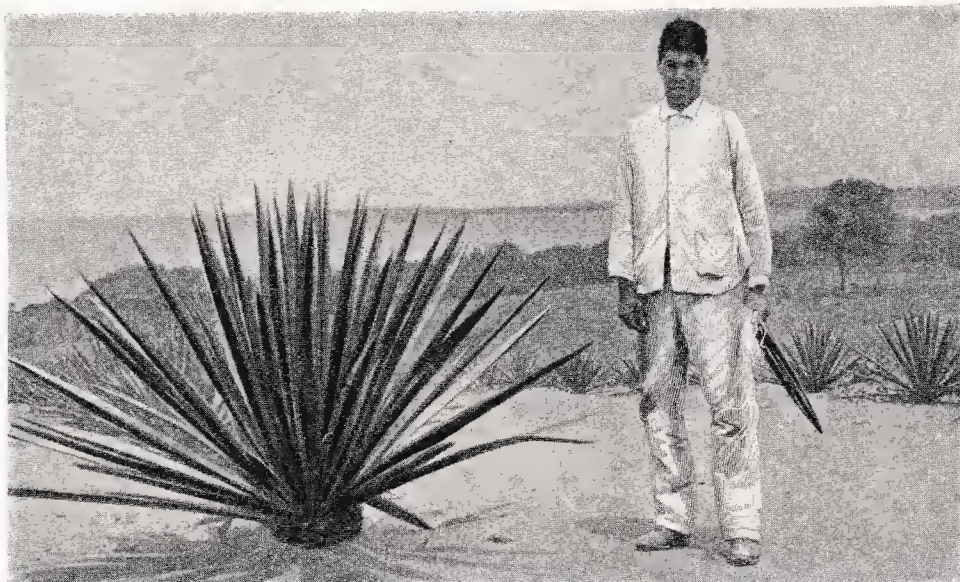
The Mexicans are a people full of contradictions. For example, nearly every Briton or American in Mexico is in the habit of declaring flatly that all Mexicans are dishonest. Yet it will be found that nearly everyone who



MESTIZAS OF YUCATAN IN THE FALLALS OF NATIVE FASHION

The principal towns of Yucatan are peopled almost entirely by Indians and mestizos. The half-breed element has become an important part of the population of Mexico; enterprising, and making the most of those opportunities that tend towards the improvement of its condition, this class has developed exceedingly, and has furnished the Republic with several of its modern leaders

Photo, Publishers' Photo Service



ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS FIBRE-PRODUCING PLANTS

Henequen fibre makes the principal produce of the stony flat lowlands of Yucatan which furnish the bulk of the world's supply from their vast sisal hemp farms. The leaves of the plant from which the fibre is derived are slender and spear-like; the operation consists of removing their epidermis and soft cellular tissue, when the clean white fibre is exposed, which is dried in the sun and baled for market

Photo, C. Rider Noble



CUTTING THE SPEAR-HEAD HENEQUEN LEAVES IN A GROVE OF YUCATAN

Henequen, more widely known as sisal hemp, is indigenous to Yucatan, the maritime peninsular state of Mexico, and widely exported, the plant attaining a height of between fifteen and twenty feet. The leaves are cut as seen above and, with their sharp points removed, stacked in bundles, taken to the machines, and the valuable fibre used for rope-making extracted

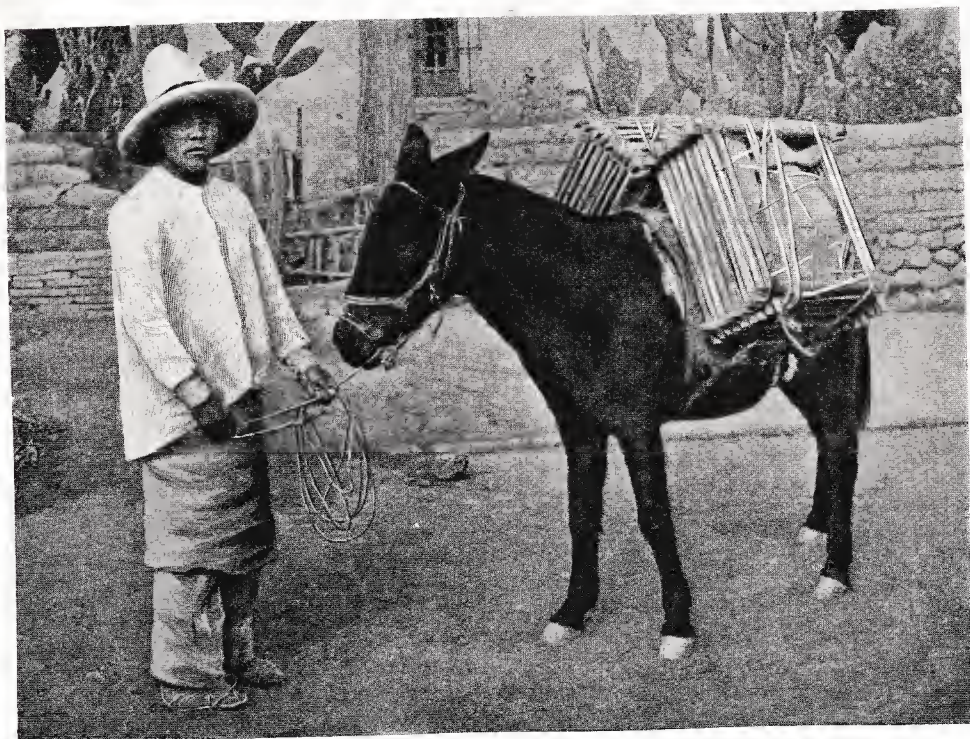
Photo, Underwood Press Service



MULETEERS TRAILING MAHOGANY FROM MEXICO'S TROPICAL FORESTS

Along a sun-rayed path Mexican arrieros are leading their heavily laden pack-animals. The men are garbed in light and airy fashion; coarse, unbleached cotton stuffs provide the chief material for their clothing, completed with sandals and the large straw sombrero; and the brightly-dyed woollen zarape, serving as cloak, blanket, or mattress, imparts the only bright touch to the colourless costume

Photo, T. Corona



ITINERANT PEON GREENGROCER AND HIS PACK-DONKEY

Street venders are numerous in Mexico city, providing unending interest for the town-dwellers indulging in their favourite amusement of watching from their windows the flowing stream of life out of doors. This man, hawking vegetables grown on the chinampas, or floating gardens of the lakes and canals, is a peon, and has all the untidy, shaggy, even dirty appearance of most of his class



CABALLERO OF THE MEXICAN PLAINS

Rifles are invariably carried by travellers throughout rural Mexico, and this sturdy countryman, even when visiting the local markets, is careful to observe the custom; but he quite willingly allowed himself to be "held up" for a snapshot

Photo, A. W. Cutler

makes that charge has discovered at least one Mexican whom he can trust. In offices, on ranches, on farms, there are natives to whom everything is confided. A ranchero from Texas who had been saying that all Mexicans were born liars and thieves remarked casually later on that, when he went away, he put his place in charge of "old Trinidad," who looked after his interests as well as he could himself. An Englishman

who had been solemnly warning a new-comer against ever trusting a Mexican, pointed next day to a young man in his employment, in whose keeping he said he would gladly and confidently leave all that he possessed in the world.

These trusted Mexicans are generally pure Indians. They may not be able to read or write. They may keep their employer's accounts by tying knots in a piece of string. They may be ignorant and incurious of all that lies beyond the range of their daily experience. But they are good and faithful servants—not entirely because they are attached to their masters, but partly because they believe that any delinquency is sure to be found out by "white magic." In their village state they have more virtues and fewer vices than when the process called "civilization" is applied to them.

So far as the town Indian is "educated," so far is he, as a rule, deprived of his better qualities and turned into something which is neither "Christian, pagan, nor

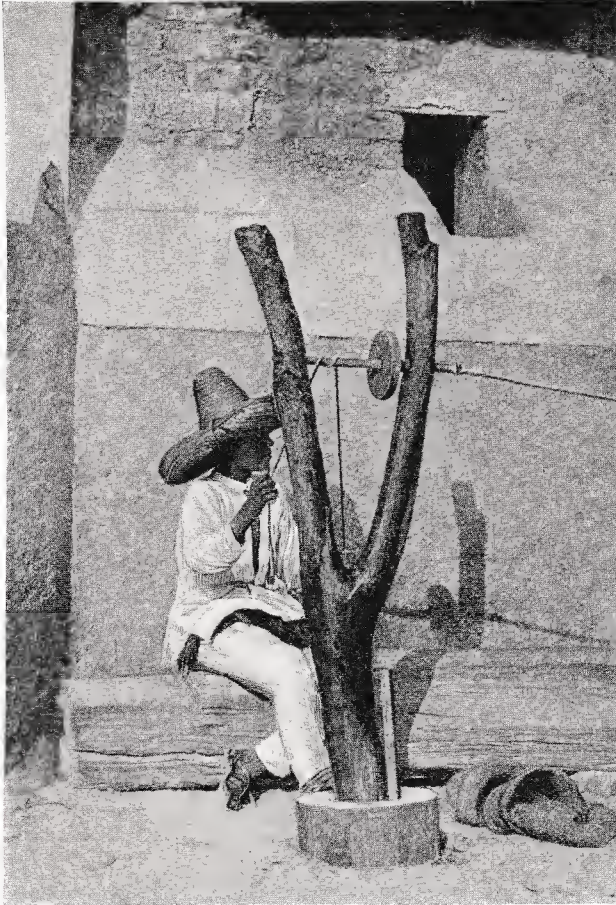
man." A certain number raise themselves in the scale of labour and to a higher standard of living. They show cleverness as mechanics, masons, carpenters, electricians. Their children wear shoes and stockings, may be sent to some third-rate school in the United States, grow up into the middle-class. But the mass of them are victimised by the drink-sellers, by the politicians, by the gambling-house



MEXICAN PEDLARS OF FAGGOTED FUEL

Wood pedlars drive a good trade in Mexican towns, where coal stoves are little used for cooking or heating except in hotels and clubs and the larger houses of the wealthy. Barefooted peons in baggy white trousers, with a tattered zarape round their shoulders, are numerous in the streets, carrying huge loads of faggots supported on their back by a broad band passing round their chest

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CORDAGE OF COMMERCE IN THE MAKING

In Mexico nature lavishly provides various fibres for the manufacture of baskets, mats, ropes, etc. ; and this young peon is an expert in twisting the filament on his roughly-fashioned implement, and so intertwining it as to form a stout rope

Photo, Underwood Press Service

keepers, by exploiters of every kind. They are easily intoxicated, both by alcohol and by oratory. When they are under the influence of either of these poisons they are capable of the most revolting cruelties. At all times the Mexicans as a nation are callous towards suffering. They flock to the bull fights and make popular heroes of the toreadors. They work horses, donkeys, and mules with horrible sores on their poor bodies. They enjoy cock-fighting. Although they like petting cats and dogs, they take no trouble to feed them or keep them in health ; the

poor creatures have to pick up what they can. When they are inflamed to anger, they commit appalling barbarities, such as the torture suffered by the brother of President Diaz who, when he was captured in a "little war" that was being waged against the government, had the soles of his feet cut off and was made to walk through prickly cactus.

Besides pulque, they drink fiery spirits, which have the worst effect upon their wits, and they use also a drug called marihuana, which persuades them that whatever they think of doing they can do. It was said that the unhappy Empress Charlotte had been poisoned with this before she started on her journey to Europe in the hope of securing aid for her husband, Maximilian.

The Mexican native loves gambling and submits to be swindled by the most transparent devices. Like the Russian peasant, he can think but one thought at a time.

In the gambling-shop his whole mind is taken up with wondering whether he will win money, and so be able to live without working for a while, perhaps if he should be very lucky for all the rest of his life. He has no attention to give to the methods by which the keeper of the shop makes sure that he shall lose.

He goes up to a green table, with squares marked on it, and in each square the picture of an animal. He puts his dollar on one of the squares. Then he fixes his eyes with painful eagerness on a cupboard with a number of little doors at the end of the room.

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He sees the proprietor take up an air-gun and fire at one of the doors, which opens and reveals an animal. If he has backed that animal, he wins what he has staked; if not, his money is swept away. He does not notice that before the proprietor fires the air-gun he takes

a look at the table, sees which animal has the least money betted on it, and makes that animal come out!

Just as credulous and as easily tricked is the native when he listens to the speeches of politicians. Their eloquence carries him off his feet. He is ready to do



MEXICANS ENGAGED IN A POPULAR LOCAL INDUSTRY

Pottery is a much admired native manufacture in Mexico. In the numberless workshops scattered about the country, a fine artistry and remarkable technical skill are displayed; but the form and colouring of the ware differ widely in the various districts, and the Indians who make earthenware for their own use are still prone to employ the methods of their ancestors in the old Aztec days

Photo, Underwood Press Service

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whatever they suggest. He believes that they are moved by the noble sentiments they proclaim. The "best families" in Mexico will not take part in politics. They deplore the condition of their unfortunate country, they speak bitterly of the character of the men who have brought it to that condition, but, whether from indolence or from cowardice, they will not bestir themselves to better it. They will not even discuss it with a stranger until they have made sure that what they say will not go any farther. And when they are urged to make their influence felt, they reply invariably with a helpless "What

can we do?" These "best families" are for the most part of Spanish stock. They live after the manner of civilized people in Europe. They are pleasant companions, if allowance is made for certain differences between their standards and those which obtain among the English-speaking races. But be their manners never so agreeable, their attentions to their friends never so kindly, there is something lacking in the Mexican of good family and comfortable life which makes it hard to respect him as one respects those who fulfil all their obligations as members of a self-governing community. This is not for want of

education. Usually the boys of such families are sent abroad to school, to the United States, or to France, Germany, or England. They do not seem, however, to apply what they have learnt to their own country. They do not even make any effort to secure for their fellow-countrymen of less ample fortune such advantages in the way of schooling as they themselves have enjoyed.

On paper the Mexican system of education is all that could be desired. Actually there are few schools above the elementary level, and the methods which are followed by the elementary teachers give poor results. There are normal schools for teachers, and there is among these teachers a genuine and often pathetic wish to become competent in their profession, and to influence in a profitable manner those who are put into their charge. But they do not themselves understand what is



VULTURE OF THE MEXICAN MARAUDERS

He is one of a band of desperadoes who, fired with fierce instincts of rebellion and intrigue, steep themselves in a sea of lawlessness, and terrorise the peaceful populace of Mexico as did the fabled trolls the simple folk of Scandinavia

Photo, Publishers' Photo Service



GLIMPSE INTO THE INNER WORKINGS OF "EL BUEN TONO" FACTORY

There are several hundred factories in Mexico engaged in the manufacture of cigars, cheroots, cigarettes, snuff, and cut tobacco for the pipe. The industry has not far to go to find a market, for the consumption of tobacco in its various forms is extremely large among all classes of the population, smoking being one of the chief relaxations of both sexes

Photo, Underwood Press Service

necessary. They have not discovered that the most useful kind of education is that which develops the intelligence, awakens curiosity, exercises the reasoning faculty, strengthens character. Their idea is to impart information,

to pour over their pupils a stream of miscellaneous and readily forgotten facts. Thus the Mexican child, who is nearly always quick-witted, ready to learn, receptive, grows into a young man or woman of shallow judgement,



WHERE MESTIZO AND INDIAN MEET IN FRIENDLY CONVERSE

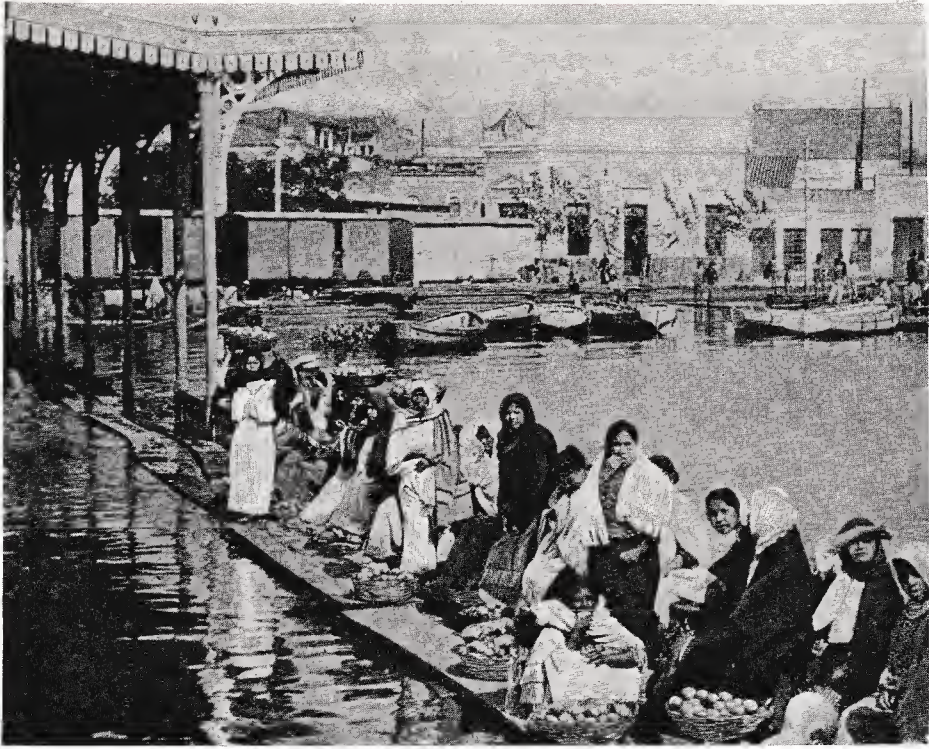
Redolent of medieval Spain is the picturesque arcade which borders one side of this native market place at Omealca, a town in the state of Vera Cruz. It was in Vera Cruz that the Spaniards made their first landing in Mexico, and it is therefore not surprising that architecture of an inherently Spanish character, paramount throughout the country, is notably strong in this maritime state

Photo, Underwood Press Service

flighty opinion, unstable character. The boys took no regular exercise until they began to play football and baseball a few years ago. They were attacked by slackness both of body and of mind before they had reached man's estate. They accepted whatever institutions, whatever habits, they found in existence; even though they could not

justify them, they had not enough energy to try to get them altered. This explains the prevalence of bribery, the dirt and disorder, the antiquated legal and commercial formalities, which are illustrated by the following incidents:

A foreigner procured a pass permitting him and his horse to travel by a military train. The young officer in



MARKETING FRUITS IN THE TROPICAL SUN OF TEHUANTEPEC

Laughing, gay companies of women people the market places of Tehuantepec, many of whom are of strikingly attractive features, rendered the more so by their complexions of burnished bronze and the shawls thrown carelessly round their heads. The isthmus of Tehuantepec may be termed the land of "woman's rights," for the feminine stockenjoys far greater freedom than the average Mexican woman

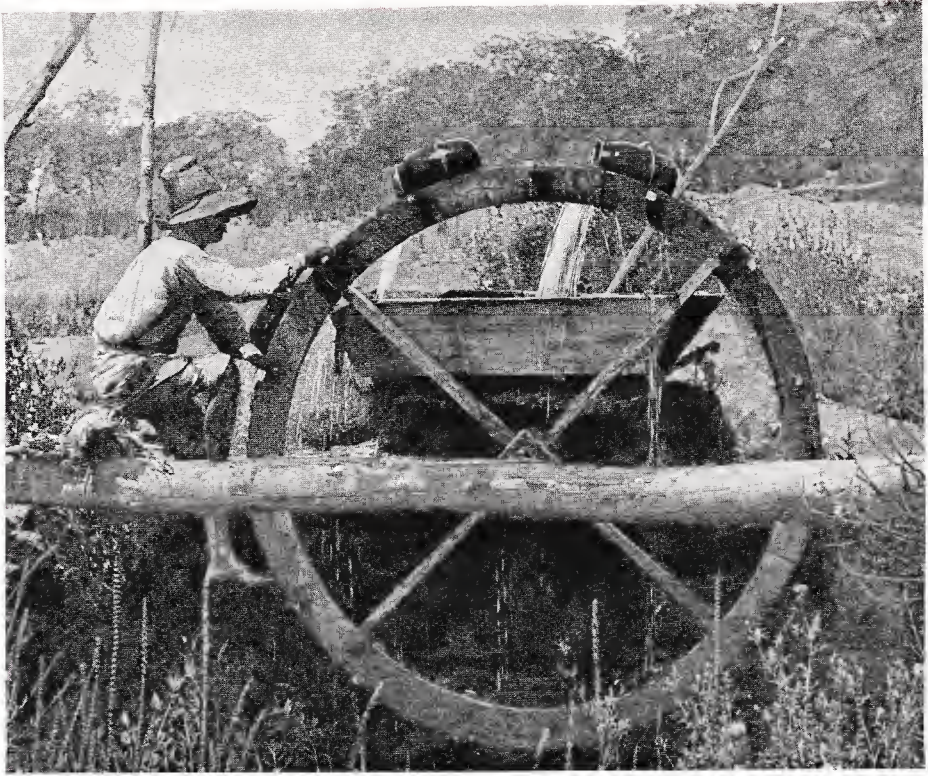
Photo, Underwood Press Service



LOADED FRUIT CANOES ON A CANAL PERHAPS BUILT BY AZTECS

From the lake of Xochimilco, noted for its axolotls, in their larval form resembling newts and esteemed locally as a table delicacy, runs this ancient canal, on whose still waters these Indian women paddle the canoes that transport their fruit. Known as the Viga, it is thought to have been built by the Aztecs to convey their garden produce to Tenochtitlan, now Mexico city

Photo, T. Corona



PATIENCE ON A WATER-WHEEL IRRIGATING FIELDS

Many districts of Mexico are arid, and scientific irrigation must be introduced if they are to be brought into general cultivation. Among the very antiquated devices still in use is this water-wheel, which a peon turns by pegs projecting from the rim, jars dipping up water from the pond below, and tipping it into a trough whence it flows into the irrigation channels

Photo, Underwood Press Service

charge of the train said a seat could be found for the man, but would not take the horse. He gave no reason, he simply declined to take it. The man with the pass was puzzled. Recollections came to him of what he had been told about the necessity of "greasing palms." Surely, he argued, no officer would take a bribe. Yet when he diffidently offered the young man a note for ten dollars (one pound), it was accepted at once, and the difficulty about the horse disappeared.

In the Mexican army is a sanitary corps, which is a source of pride to those who talk fluently about their country being in the van of civilization. In a train which was carrying troops there were members of this corps prominent among the officers in command. Yet the sanitary arrangements on that train were horrible, and seventy officers of all

ranks ate and slept in one coach, which had all its windows shut at night, and was not cleaned, or even swept out, during a journey lasting several days.

The procedure of Mexican magistrates is to seize all who have been witnesses of an accident or a crime, and to keep them in solitary confinement (*incommunicado*) for three days and nights. The idea underlying this ancient practice was presumably to keep such witnesses from contamination until they had given their evidence. The result of it is that persons who have seen any offence committed or any accident happen, instead of being ready, like good citizens, to help in securing that justice shall be done, hurry away as quickly as possible. When a train ran over and killed a Mexican, it was impossible for the driver and fireman, who

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were Americans, to do this, so they did the next best thing, they telegraphed to the nearest American consul, telling him what had happened. He knew it would be futile to protest if once they were arrested, so he determined to prevent their arrest. He went to the magistrate who would have to take the investigation in hand, and discussed with him in a general way Mexican legal

procedure, including the incommunicado plan. "Now," he said, "suppose a train knocked a man down, you would not think it necessary to commit the driver and fireman to prison before you had made a preliminary inquiry, I suppose?"

The magistrate replied politely that he would not. When he got news of the accident, he could not go back upon what he had told the consul. The men



MOUNTAINEER FROM GUANAJUATO'S DEEP-DUG SILVER MINES

Astride his hairy little mount the desert rider can make short work of long distances when his spell at the mines is over. Guanajuato is a manufacturing and mining town one hundred and sixty miles north-west of the capital, and stands six thousand feet above the sea. The mines, once the richest in Mexico, have become so deep that it is increasingly difficult to work them

Photo, C. Mabor Hodgess

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were not arrested, as they certainly would have been but for this clever piece of diplomacy.

Commercial rules are not less troublesome than legal, but can be evaded with not less ease. A commercial traveller

have not been Mexicans. The "best families" still have the feeling that business is not for gentlemen. Nearly all of it is, therefore, done by foreigners. There are skilful surgeons and physicians, but they, too, are Europeans. The native doctors are seldom thorough, their diagnoses are apt to be hasty and ill-considered; they may have been trained in a good school, but it is unlikely that they have kept up with the constant changes in practice.

What makes it hard to govern Mexico is the growth of a sense among the new middle class that they have rights, and their slowness to understand that they have also duties. They do not see that no man can be a good citizen who does not do his best at his job, and keep up an informed acquaintance with public affairs, and make an effort to obtain honest and capable management of them. The obstacle to good government is not that the people do not fully grasp the meaning of democracy, but that there are too few honourable and sensible men to lead the people to a better state of public life.



SINGING THE SPANISH "SONG OF SONGS"

In his "traje charro," the showy riding costume of the Mexican cowboy, he makes a handsome figure as he listens to the tremulous lilt of "La Paloma," sung by his dark-eyed companion with all the passionate abandon of her Spanish nature

Photo, T. Corona

arriving at Vera Cruz was told that he must fill up several forms of declaration and write out a complete list of his samples. He did so. He was a long time over it. When he took them in to the presiding Customs official he found that they were acquainted. The official remembered him, and did not look at the documents. "That is all right," he said, and signed them offhand.

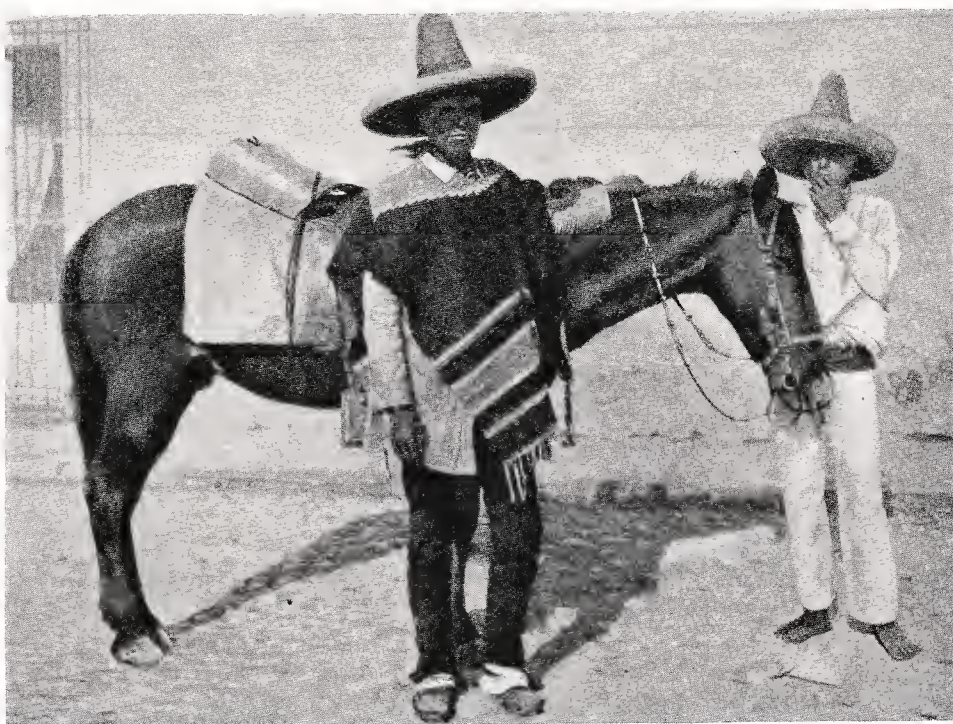
There have been many enterprising men of business in Mexico, but they

Yet one thing which surprises the visitor is that the private life of the nation should be so little affected by the vagaries of its rulers. All through the troubles which occurred in the revolutionary period the capital changed in outward appearance very little. There were some days of street fighting at the end of Madero's short reign. Now and again a scare would be raised by gossip. But Sunday after Sunday in the Paseo de la Reforma, that magnificent



WHEN THE DUSTMAN GOES HIS ROUND IN ZACATECAS

Here is no official-looking vehicle bearing the stamp of urban council authority, but a sorry equipage, wooden wheeled and, in the main, an enormous sack supported on a timber framework. The dustman draws up his cart before the line of back doors in this town of central Mexico, and his oxen stand stolidly in the sand while he scales the wheel to empty his basket-loads of refuse into the vehicle



SUNSHINE AND SHADE IN A MEXICAN RANCH YARD

Horseback is still the most general method of transport in Mexico, and the habitual rider has an air all his own. In the bright sun-rays is a dusky horseman, his face black in the shade of his wide sombrero, as he stands with one hand on the ornamented rein. Draped from his shoulder is a dark zarape of striped cloth, laced at the neck, and with a tasselled edge

Photo, Miss C. J. Hunter



SPEEDING THE BULLET OF DEATH FROM THE REBEL REFUGE

Mexico has passed through turbulent times during the last century, revolution being mainly responsible for the unsettled state of the country. Riotous outbursts on the part of the revolutionary sections of the community have incessantly produced fierce guerrilla warfare, and in numerous places ruined and pillaged buildings betoken the disastrous results that attended the rebels' onslaughts



AMONG THE HOT-BLOODS OF OUTLAWED MEXICO

There are many unruly spirits among the mixed masses of Mexican humanity who are far too fond of using the knife. Crimes of violence were formerly so common that they began to lose their criminal aspect in the eyes of this dangerous social element, who were ever ready to join in the open brigandage that cursed the country in the days of civil discord

Photos, J. C. Farmborough



FIGHTING-MEN OF MEXICO IN THEIR TIME OF STRESS

The titanic struggle which convulsed Europe in recent years deafened her ears and deadened her sympathies to that other struggle taking place in the remote American republic of Mexico. But those insurrections were far from being all mere riotous scufflings of brigands and robber factions, for the Mexican people were likewise fighting for their ideals and for the exercise of their liberty



PRACTISING A PASTIME WHICH TOO OFTEN BECOMES A DEADLY SPORT

The Mexican requires no long practice in the art of shooting; he is usually an expert where the wielding of gun and knife is concerned—howbeit, his skill is not always reserved for harmless sport. Although no sportsman in the British sense of the word, he is endowed with considerable pluck, and a disposition to take up a quarrel wherever he finds it

Photos, J. C. Farmborough

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avenue which leads out to the Castle of Chapultepec, and in S. Francisco Street, there was the usual slowly-moving mass of carriages in which all who could afford it were taking the air. Whatever was happening, people still

rolls on their heads. The dustman's bell tinkled, the knife-grinder sounded a few notes on his Pan-pipes, reminding one of the English Punch and Judy. Then the street-corner merchants set their trays up, loading them with candied fruits and unwholesome-looking pastries and sweetmeats more tempting, from which they must keep whisking the flies as soon as it grows warm.

Elegant figures of slim young women, with older, fat ones in charge of them, all wearing black mantillas on their heads, slipped homeward with clicking heels from early Mass. At the Country Club, reached by electric street-car, there were golfers and lawn-tennis players, and crowds dancing on Sunday afternoons. On the canal the Indians in their punts brought up vegetables and flowers to the city market, pushing them along slowly with their poles under the trees leaning over from the banks. In the Indian village of Santa Anita by the canal side, brown girls and youths danced on holidays and sat in flowery arbours drinking pulque or beer. Later in the day, revolution or no



MOTHER'S BREAST MAKES A COSY NEST

Peon women are good housewives and excellent mothers. Dressy when they can afford to be so, they usually wear a commonplace costume, always including a rebozo or thin cotton shawl, in which they carry their baby about in comfort

Photo, Publishers' Photo Service

hurried to work in the early morning, wrapped up against the chilly air, for Mexico city stands over seven thousand feet high, and, though the days are nearly always warm, one is glad of a blanket at night. The Indians wear their blankets in the daytime, and pull them up round their noses until the sun warms the thin air.

Among the workers hastening to shop or office or factory trotted lithe, brown bakers' men, balancing baskets of

revolution, the three fine streets of the capital, running parallel and lined with good shops, were full and lively. Pretty women in frocks from Paris were being driven to the stores and the confectioners' in well-horsed broughams or victorias, or in motors of American manufacture. Brown, barefooted children were trying to sell lottery tickets, or calling out evening papers. In the doorway of the beautiful old palace which houses the Jockey Club, smart

NATIVE MEXICO :
Its Folk White & Brown



In his shady sombrero and charro costume sewn with silver or brass buttons and fancy facings the Mexican caballero cuts a dashing figure



Inhospitable in appearance, the barred ground-floor window of Mexico provides no small enjoyment in the animated play of children

Photo, A. W. Cutler



A peon's lot is a harsh and relentless one at the best of times, music perhaps providing the one bright spot in his joyless existence



Unusually harmonious is the performance of untrained Mexican musicians, often ranking with that of skilled professionals

Photos, T. Corona



White as snow and stiff with starch is this frilled lace headgear or huipil, a striking adornment peculiar to the Tehuana Indian women

Photo, A. W. Cutler



In rich or sterile soil the cactus thrives, varying from creeping stems and balls bristling with spikes to lofty palisades of prickly-pear

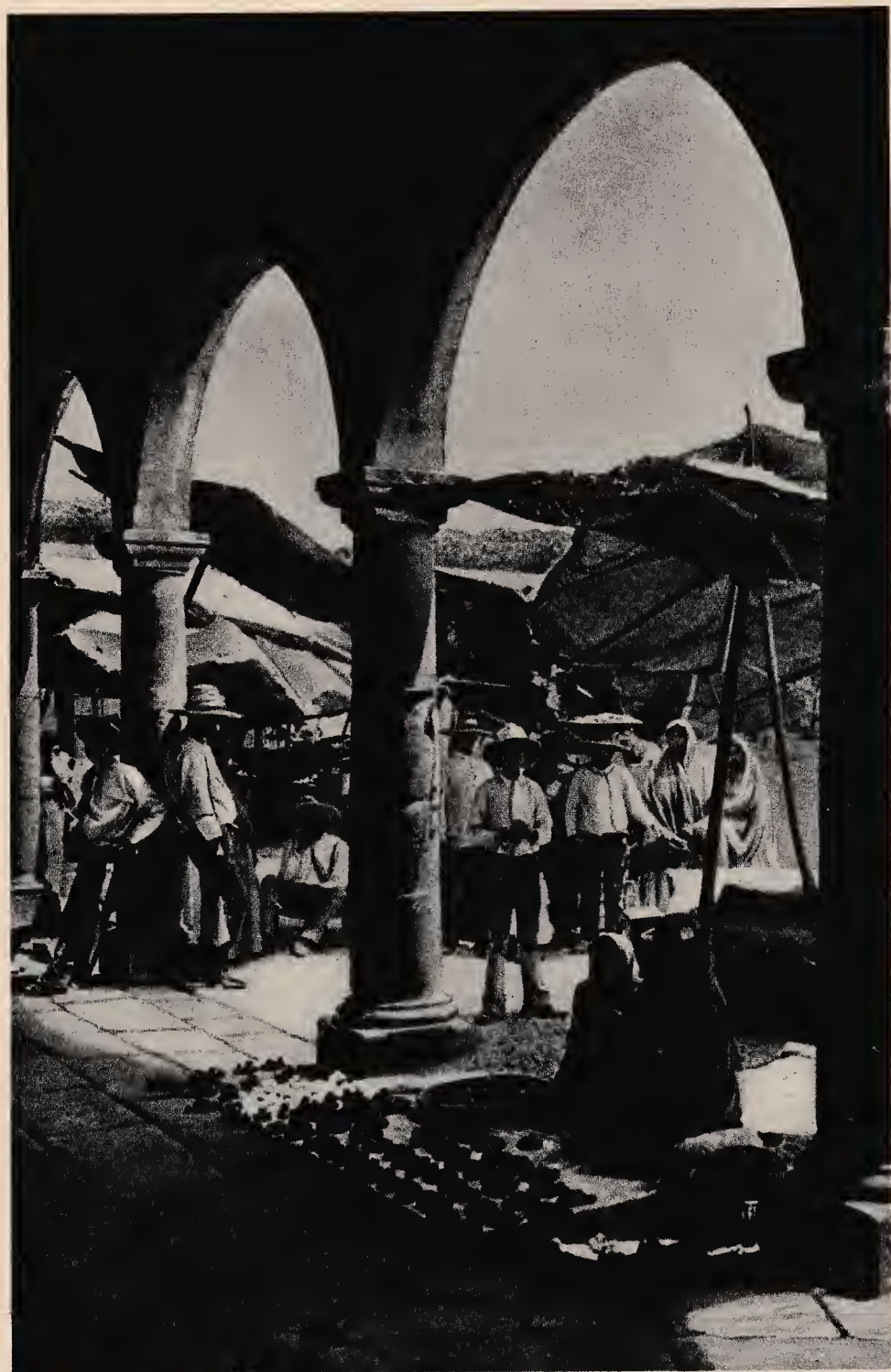


Mexican Indian women are born to hard work, and this ancient stone well is frequented by brown-skinned maidens of high and low degree



The carrying capacity of Mexicans is remarkable, and this young water-bearer is well in practice for all burdens that fall to her share

Photo, C. Rider Noble



Under an old vaulted passage-way Indian women are peddling their wares in Aguas Calientes, one of the most interesting of Mexican cities

men sat and watched the passers-by. So the throng continued until the sun suddenly disappeared, and the clusters of street lamps flashed into brightness, the shops turning on their lights at the same time, and everybody began to think about going home.

The climate partly explains the small attention paid to civil war. In all that region of Mexico which is called *frio* (cold) the weather is so healthy and exhilarating that there is no inclination to worry. Those who are naturally strong and reasonably careful in what they eat and drink enjoy vigour and fitness, in spite of the violent changes in temperature. They enjoy, too, if they have any sense of beauty, the glorious mountain scenery, the changing effects of sun and cloud, the vast spaces, the wild and the garden flowers.

Besides the capital, there is in the high region the city of Puebla, which is distinguished by the number of its churches, by the abundance of tiles used in its architecture, and by the frequency of the fighting which has occurred in and round about it. "The City of the Angels" is the title accorded to Puebla by all devout Mexicans, and most of them are devout, at all events in outward observances. When first a town was built here by the Spanish invaders in 1532, angels are said to have staked out its site. Later they are credited with helping to build the cathedral. The bull-rings are crowded on Sunday afternoons, and provide the Pueblans with their favourite pastime. They are well-to-do, and can afford to pay for the most famous bull-fighters from Spain; they make their money out of manufactures, chiefly cotton, paper, and soap—that soap with a penetrating perfume which all Mexicans seem to prefer.

Another busy cotton centre is Orizaba, which lies in the "temperate" zone. Here there are not the same sudden changes or the same cold nights and mornings as in the "cold" regions. The railway from Mexico City to



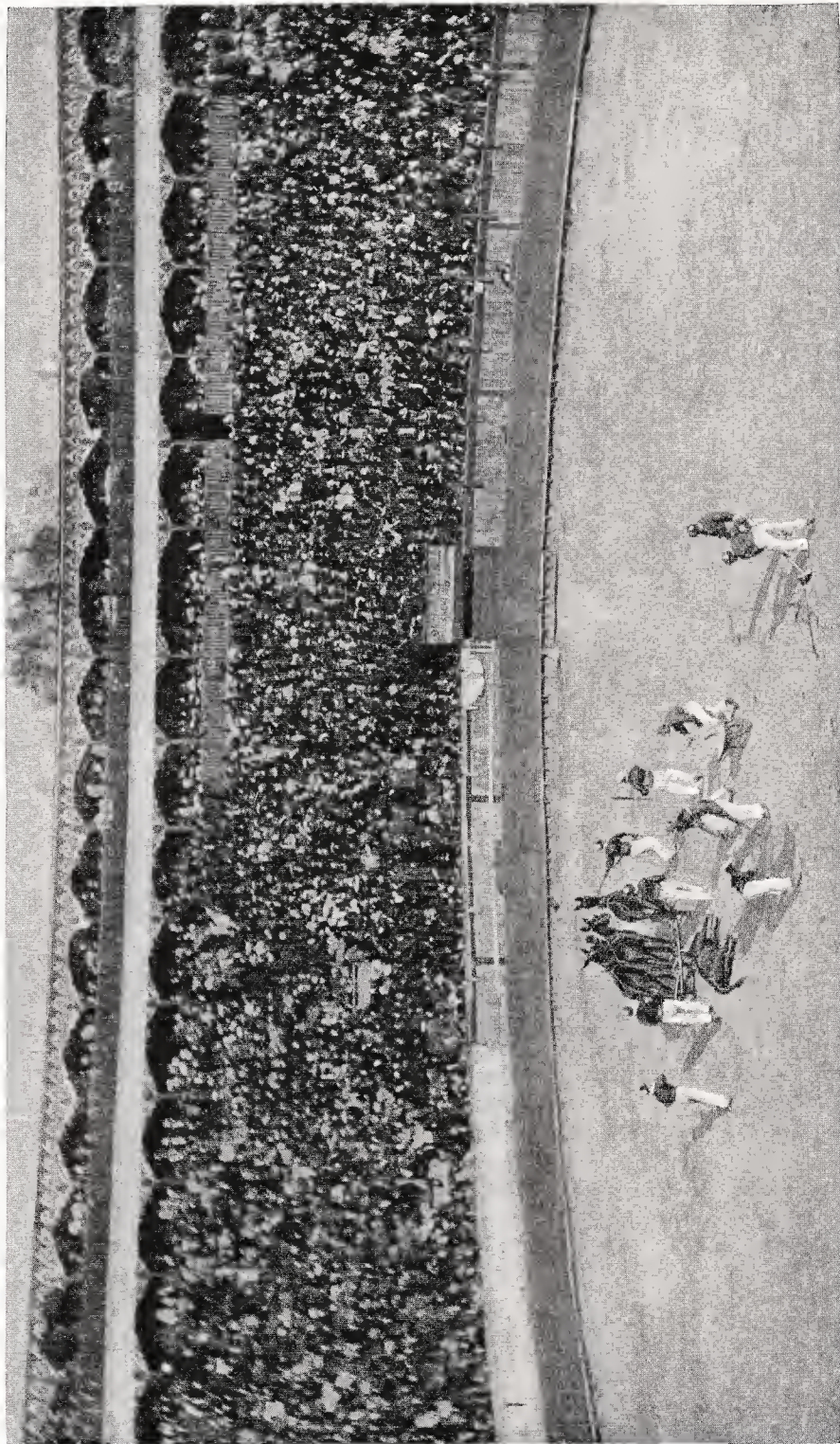
AFTER RECKLESSNESS REGRET

Most of the men of the peon, or common labourer, class of Mexico are born gamblers, and are ready to stake their last coin on a turn of the dice or any other chance

Photo, Underwood Press Service

Orizaba drops three thousand feet in three-quarters of an hour. It is like coming to the edge of the high plateau and falling over. You arrive with the sensation of cotton-wool in your ears.

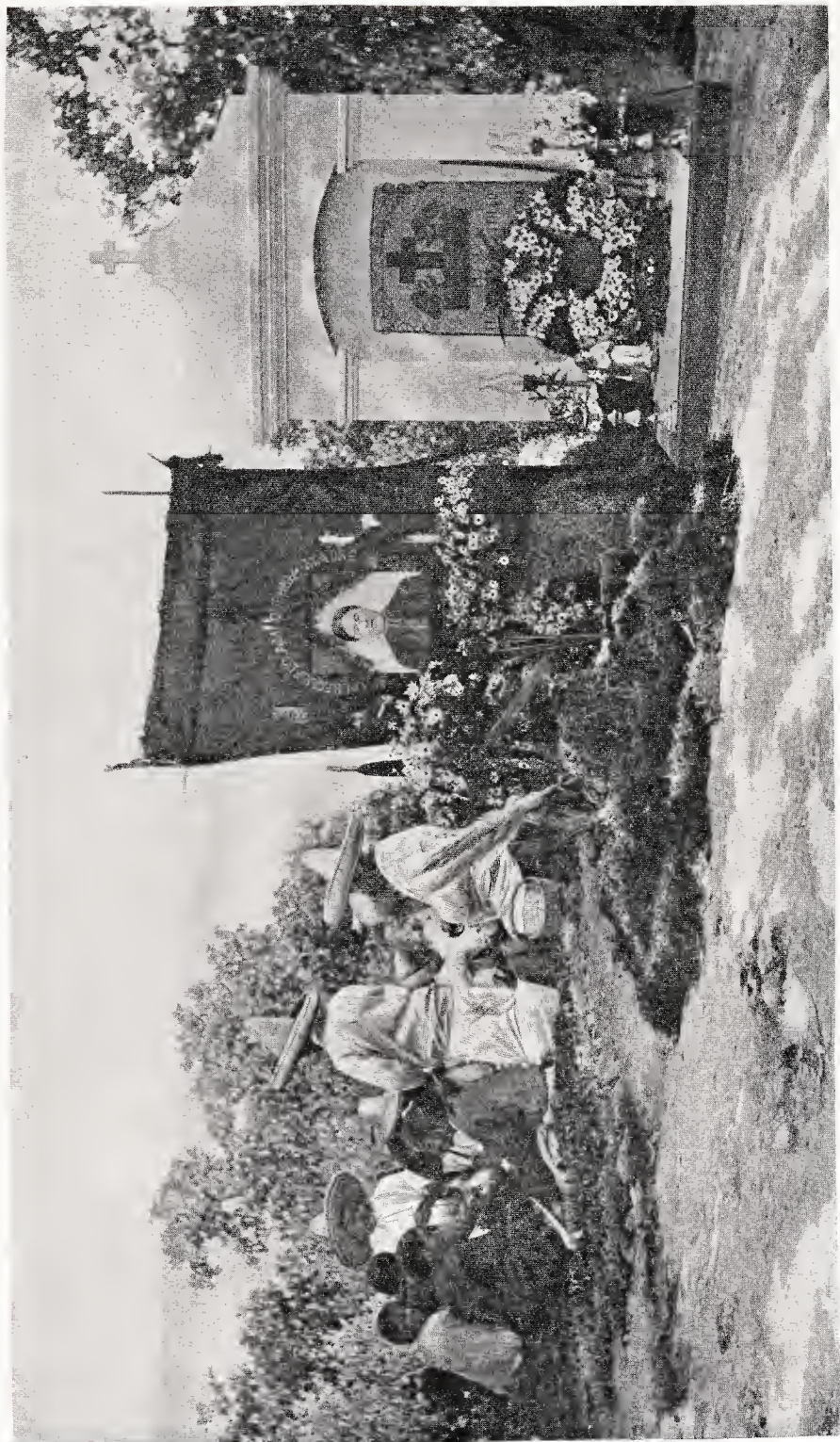
Between Orizaba and Córdoba, twenty miles on towards the coast, spreads the chief coffee-growing district. A little farther on, sugar-cane, bananas, and pine-apples flourish. The size of everything that springs from the fertile soil



ARENA HANDS DRAGGING THE CARCASS OF THE FALLEN BULL FROM A PLAZA DE TORO IN MEXICO

The Mexican people are fond of any amusements which savour of risk, and a game that has no personal danger attached to it is to many of these hot-blooded, hot-headed folk not worth the playing. Bull-fighting is still tolerated in the city of Mexico, for the love of this national sport of Spain is deep-seated in the inhabitants of Spanish origin; and the huge circus, or "plaza de toro," is packed with a spellbound throng who watch the proceedings with breathless interest

Photo, C. Rider Noble



PIOUS MEXICANS DECORATE THE GRAVES OF THEIR RELATIVES UPON ALL SOULS DAY

One of the most popular and strictly observed feasts in Catholic countries is All Souls Day, and this is no less true of Mexico. Here we see a group of sons and other relatives of the mother whose portrait is on the banner at the back of her beflowered grave. Above runs an inscription to her memory, and behind is a still more elaborately decorated tomb with votive lamps. Around is the tropically luxuriant vegetation of this place of death, and, over all, the blaze of the Mexican sun

Photo, C. Mabor Hodges

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"HERE UPON GUARD AM I!"

Mexican soldiers are small and sinewy men, able to endure fatigue, privation, and pain well. With good training and leading they might make a fine army

increases. In Orizaba orange-trees grow in the plaza, and roses bloom alongside many semi-tropical plants. This helps to reconcile one to the slipshod untidiness of the place. Wherever nature does a great deal for man, he does little for himself. In the market the fruit-stalls are lovely and fragrant and appetising, but the look and smell of the meat displayed are enough to blunt the keenest appetite. The road surfaces make it a bold adventure to hire a cab. The town is prosperous, with a brewery that sends its refreshing light beer all over the country, as well as the cotton factories, but the people do not spend money on their surroundings.

The journey from Orizaba to Vera Cruz, the piously named chief port of Mexico, takes one from the temperate into the hot zone. Now the atmosphere is oppressive, the glare of the sun drives you indoors at nine o'clock in the morning, the nights make even a sheet seem heavy to your perspiring limbs. White linen suits are worn all the year round, save when the "norther" blows and the sky changes from blue to grey, and you feel cold even with two overcoats on.

Luckily that is not often. As a rule you wake to plenteous sunshine, the parakeets chatter musically in the tree-tops, the sea matches the radiance of the sky. The middle part of the day is heavy, you swelter through a siesta with the shutters closed, you feel an undefined dissatisfaction as you stroll through the featureless streets, you wonder why the inhabitants are most of them so ill-looking. But with darkness comes back contentment. You sit at a little table under the Portales, the arcades around the Plaza, listening to the band, and watching the pretty girls walk round and round, their arms twined about each other's slim waists. The waiters are kept busy serving chocolate, ice-cream, tiny glasses of atrocious brandy, and wholesome Orizaba beer. If you sit still, you can almost imagine that it is cool. A sense

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of well-being descends upon you. You are reconciled to Vera Cruz.

The most Spanish city in Mexico is Guadalajara (pronounce the j as h). Here the people, especially the women of the well-to-do class, are of a fairer type than most; many of them have brown, and some almost flaxen, hair. They pride themselves upon unbroken descent from the Spanish grandees who colonised this part of the country, and they take care to keep their city clean. It is an attractive place, with a most agreeable climate, and a trade which, before the revolutionary disturbances, flourished exceedingly. Not less prosperous is Monterey, in the north, with its smelters, steel-works, cement-works, lumber-yards. A pleasant, comfortable city this, with good water and drainage, good electric street-cars, an excellent

lighting system, and electric power for its industries. Yet there is an underside to all this appearance of civilization. The market is a horrible place at night, overrun by troops of rats.

Leon is celebrated for smaller industries, such lines as leather articles, cutlery, woollens, ironware, straw hats. In 1888 this city was almost destroyed by flood. A cloudburst caused the river to overflow, and a vast wall of water engulfed the place. Over 2,000 houses were swept away, 20,000 inhabitants were homeless, 200 were drowned. After that a dyke ten feet thick and nearly a mile in length was built to prevent such a disaster from happening again. San Luis Potosí is made rich by the silver mines which lie around it; they have been worked for centuries, and are still productive. The houses are bright and



"GOLDEN RAIN" OF DANCING SOUNDS FROM A MEXICAN MARIMBA

Like all Latin peoples, the Mexicans are exceedingly musical, and the Mestizos and Indians are also intensely fond of music and song. In the numerous plazas delightful music, excellently executed, resounds throughout the evening hours; the musicians' masterly command of their instruments and the originality of the compositions supplying true "concord of sweet sounds"

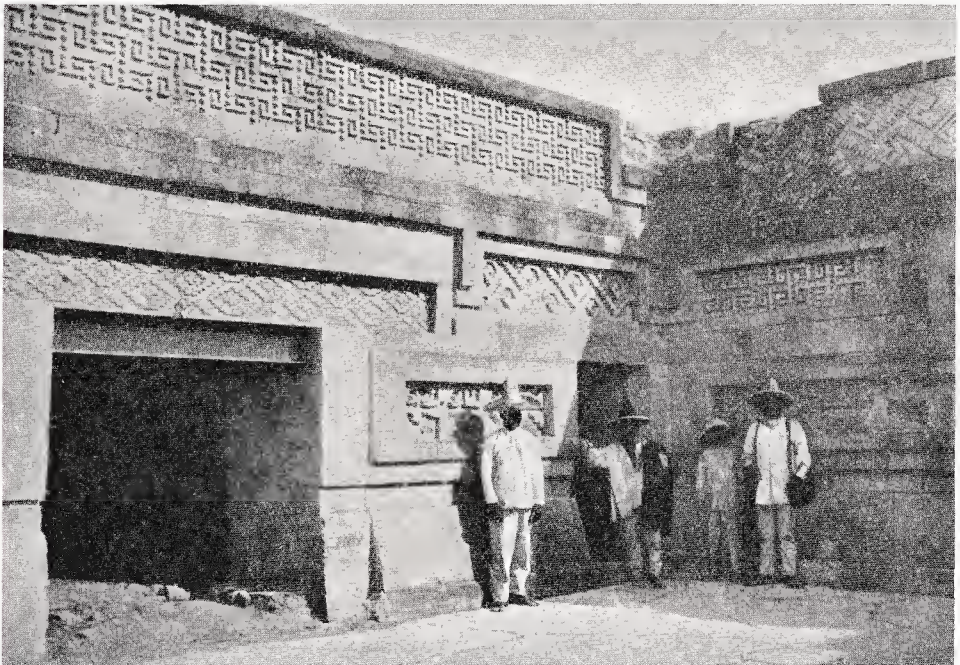
Photo, C. Mabor Hodgess



TOILSOME CONTRIVANCE AMID NATURE'S DISORDER

Upon the rock-strewn hillside Mexican stonemasons are hard at work constructing a smooth-faced wall out of the living rock that alone was lately there. On the scaffolding some place blocks in position and secure them with cement, while others move suitable material upon sloping planks. The scene is laid in the mountainous state of Oaxaca, which is traversed by spurs from the Sierra Madre

Photo, C. Rider Noble



ELABORATE OLD-WORLD ARCHITECTURE OF UNKNOWN ARTISTS

Some thirty miles to the south-east of Oaxaca, on the Mixtecapan plateau, lie the wonderful ruins of Mitla, covering about 2,000 feet square and comprising several groups of temples, palaces, tombs, and other edifices, many of which are beautifully decorated with geometrical designs and with picture writings. Among the countless devices, that of the cross frequently appears

Photo, Miss C. J. Hunter



EXCAVATORS ON THE SITE OF AN ANCIENT MAYA CITY, YUCATAN

The Maya Indians of Yucatan are a totally distinct race from the Indian peoples of Mexico. Though at the present day an agricultural class, they are the direct descendants of that ancient people who built the ruined cities, containing wonderful temples and palaces, of Central America, the marvellous carved hieroglyphs of which still baffle all the attempts of scientists to interpret them



AMID THE ANTIQUITIES OF MEXICO

Huge blocks and columns, not unlike those of the Syrian Baalbek, have been found among the extensive ancient ruins of Mitla, presumably the capital of a people overthrown by the Aztecs, whose history is still wrapped in obscurity

Photo, Miss C. J. Hunter

attractive, and on the surface the place is clean, but go below the surface and dirt is not far to seek.

So far the principal oil port is Tampico, which not very many years ago was a little place, hot, dusty, unimportant, doing a small trade in fruit. Then came the discoveries of oil, and Tampico boomed. It is still hot and it is still dusty, but where stood wooden shacks are now tall office buildings; in the streets which used to be deserted there is a bustle and a throng. English and German are heard far more than Spanish. A colony of shady villas set in gardens has sprung up a little way out where the foreigners reside.

It is no wonder they like to escape from the town when their work is done. Places "in the making" are never pleasant. The streets of Tampico are unkempt and usually unswept. The flies are a burden hard to bear. The native Indians and half-breeds are a disagreeable-looking lot. Some day Tampico will be one of the world's great oil ports. When the Mexican fields are developed more fully they will produce more oil, it is estimated, than those of the Caucasus, perhaps as much as those of the United States. Already there are miles of railway sidings and quays down by the river towards the sea. On the hills you see huge oil-tanks, looking like gigantic mushrooms.

At Tuxpan, another oil port, the "tankers" can be filled, and vessels which have oil furnaces can be provisioned, nearly a mile from the shore. There are mooring berths with

pipes laid out to them, through which the oil rushes into the ships at the rate of a thousand barrels an hour. Some Mexicans look sadly on at the wealth of their country being exploited by foreigners, and there has been talk of buying out the foreign companies and making the oil-fields national property. But there has never yet been any real prospect of this.

Another port on the gulf that will grow with the extension of the oil-fields is Puerto Mexico, formerly called Coatzacoalcos. This lies on the isthmus of Tehuantepec, which joins Mexico to Central America. Here the Indians are a most interesting race. They reverse

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the usual positions of men and women ; the men do little work and take no responsibility ; the women, the stronger sex, are actually bigger and more powerful than the men, as well as more intelligent. All the business is in their hands. No man is allowed to take charge of a stall in the market. There are women butchers even, who cut up the carcasses with rapid skill. Those who buy the coffee and the bananas which are grown on the Tehuantepec plantations drive their bargains with women managers, and find they well know how to keep their end up.

They are fine-looking creatures, not very dark-skinned, with refined features. They braid their hair with exquisite neatness, so as to show the shape of the head, and they wear flowers in it. This makes the rest of their costume look curiously sketchy. They wear cotton

tunics or short Zouave jackets of red and black, with sheets of red cotton draped tightly round them, and kept up by tucking one end in at the waist ; nothing on their feet. On Sundays and holidays their heads are covered by large frilled caps of linen and lace. Cleanliness is ranked by these women of Tehuantepec as a virtue, or perhaps as a luxury, even higher than godliness. They bathe at least once every day. In the hot evenings hundreds of them swim and roll and splash in the warm waters of the river which runs through Tehuantepec town.

This is on the Pacific side of the isthmus, not far from the port of Salina Cruz, where pelicans fish in the harbour, a most amusing sight. They flop on to the surface with their large wings awkwardly outspread, and peck with their huge beaks at the fish they



MULE-DRAWN HEARSE AT TAMPICO THAT RUNS ON TRAM-LINES

Owing to the very great heat it is necessary in this part of the Republic, lying between the twenty-third and twenty-second parallels of north latitude, that funerals be carried out with all possible speed. This funeral car has been adapted to run along the town tramway track of this port on the gulf of Mexico. Tampico is in Tamaulipas state by the mouth of the river Panuco

Photo, Underwood Press Service

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have marked. They generally pierce it, too. Then there often follows an entertaining attempt by a seagull to steal the pelican's catch. The seagulls hover round, ready to make a dart for the fish as soon as the bird brings it up. Sometimes a pelican will keep its beak a long time under water with its catch, so as to tire out the seagull.

On the Pacific side the heat is dry, which makes it more bearable than the

moist heaviness of the tropical jungle produced by the rains which fall on the Atlantic side. This jungle hems in Puerto Mexico with its tall trees muffled by the giant convolvulus and joined by thick trails of creeper with vivid blossoms, pink and crimson and scarlet, mauve and purple and blue. Here parrakeets chatter and flash in the shafts of sunshine which fall through openings in the green gloom; here



BEARING A SMALL BROTHER TO THE GRAVE

The prevailing religion in Mexico is Roman Catholicism, but all religions are tolerated and none officially recognized. Church festivals and celebrations have been greatly altered in late years and various features savouring of paganism abolished. Marriages and funerals are so expensive that the poor often dispense with the former ceremony and make the latter as simple as possible

Photo, Underwood Press Service

butterflies with a wing-spread of nine inches flutter among the gorgeous tropical flowers. In these forests is a wealth of valuable timber which seems inexhaustible, mahogany and rosewood for furniture, others for making dyes. This has so far been scarcely touched.

East of Tehuantepec lies the state of Chiapas, of which a large part is covered by forests of this character. There is no railway in this region; those who visit the celebrated ruins of pre-historic palaces and temples, known as the Ruins at Palenque, must take a camping outfit with them. Not even the name of the city which stood here is known, nor the name of the race which built it. Supposition dates its abandonment as far back as the twelfth century. Certainly the buildings of stone and stucco were planned and ornamented by a people cultivated and refined. Only a small portion of the ruins has been exposed to view. The

rest lies buried in a dense tropical vegetation, amid which every step must be cut.

In this jungle at night are seen fire-beetles an inch long, which give out enough light to read by. The natives use them as lanterns, as Diggorry Venn and Wildere did on Egdon Heath in Mr. Hardy's "Return of the Native." Three or four are put into a cage of bamboo, from which shines quite a good illumination. The Indians fasten them to their ankles when they go through the forest after dark; the women wear them in their hair under a veil, which prevents them from escaping,



PERIPATETIC WICKER-WORK

Oddly suggestive of a perambulating wicker-built pagoda, the canastera, or basket-seller, hawks her wares in Mexican city streets, baskets of all shapes and sizes cumbering her limbs, and a steeple of hats towering from her head

but lets their light shine. The beetles can turn their phosphorescence on and off at will. Sometimes they collect in thousands and, apparently, at some signal, flash their brightness, then darken it. This they do over and over again.

North of Chiapas comes the state of Campeche. From the capital of this, a small, picturesque, unhealthy port on the gulf of Mexico, a railway runs into Yucatan, which supplies a good deal of the world's rope and string. This is made from the plant henequen, also known as sisal hemp, belonging to the cactus tribe, and yielding at small

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expense a greenish-yellow thread. The profits of the Yucatan planters are increased by the system, indistinguishable from slavery, which they have imposed upon the unfortunate Maya Indians. Once the Maya were a people almost civilized. The remains of their architecture at Chichen Itza and elsewhere prove their possession of a highly-developed sense of proportion and of line. One building had a cornice which represented a procession of tigers and lynxes; another was adorned with a sculptured border of serpents; scenes of battle alternate with scenes of domestic

life. The carvings on these monuments, worked for the most part with tools of stone, prove that the Maya, besides being hunters and trappers, were experienced agriculturists and excellent weavers, while excavation has disclosed much skilful pottery. The sites of as many as sixty ancient cities can be traced in Yucatan, buried in the dense forestal growth to which alone their present ruinous condition appears to be due. What led to the abandonment of these wonder cities, architecturally unique and erected by the labour of many generations, is a mystery that remains unsolved.

The Maya did not speak the same language as the Aztecs. They may have been descended from far-off common ancestors, but they were altogether distinct from them and had reached a higher degree of development. The coming of the Spaniards destroyed their arts and industries, their system of picture-writing and hieroglyphics, their cities and temples. They were degraded to barbarism, and to this hour the habit of treating them as serfs persists.

The people of Yucatan to-day are gentle, contented, good-looking, pleasure-loving, but they are mostly a mixed race. They keep up a good many old customs which are supposed to have come down from the Maya; among these is the custom of sleeping in hammocks instead of in beds. The hammocks are made, of course, from the fibre of the sisal hemp. Whole villages live by making them, while Yucatan ladies twist them as women in



"BIRDS FOR SALE! LIVE BIRDS FOR SALE!"
A fair match for the canastera shown on the preceding page is the bird-seller who walks about the streets of Mexico city with a veritable sky-scraper of cages on his back. Parrakeets and song-birds form the bulk of his livestock

England knit or crochet. A fine one, looking almost as if it were made of lace, may cost £30 or £40, and will last several lifetimes despite its fragile appearance. They are longer than the hammocks in common use elsewhere, and much wider, therefore quite comfortable to sleep in.

This remote region is little affected by political events which trouble the rest of the land. The people here hardly know who is President or for what cause revolution splits the nation in twain. Yet the state of Sonora, the westernmost as Yucatan is the most easterly, is politically more inflammable than any other part of the country.

The climate of Sonora is pleasant, like that of Texas. Wherever there is water the soil is fertile; it is a good cattle country, and there is rich mining, especially of copper. Hermosillo, its capital, is a quiet, attractive little town, with a market full of colour, deep-toned cathedral bells, waving palm-trees, and sun-baked, dusty streets, against which the low, grey houses shutter themselves all day, to open up only when evening brings coolness and everyone comes out to luxuriate in the balmy air. There are interesting Indians in this northern state, too; in the Yaqui Valley, only a few years back, they still used bows and arrows.

Sonora is washed on the west by the waters of the Gulf of California, across which lies Lower California, still under Mexican government. A narrow tongue of land, it is very sparsely populated. Mining is the principal industry of the peninsula; it is rich



RAILWAY POLICE GUARDING A TUNNEL-MOUTH

Through a veritable wonderland of scenery, the railroads of Mexico run along precipitous slopes, pass awful gorges, cross deep chasms; and so steep is one region that three straight miles require twenty miles of curved and zigzagged road

in copper deposits; gold, iron, and many other metals are worked very profitably. There are pearl fisheries, too, which employ a great many divers and "hunters," as the men are called who search the oyster-shells. Excepting the southern part, the climate of Lower California is detestable, though not unhealthy. Heat, drought, and dust, an arid landscape, scanty vegetation, deprive life of almost all its joys.

Such a land of contrasts is Mexico. Go only into certain states and you would say: "A God-forsaken country, all scrub and sand." Go to Cuernavaca or Lake Chapala and you will call it the most delightful country on earth. Cuernavaca, some four hours from the



EVERY DAY IS PANCAKE DAY IN MEXICO

Maize pancakes, or tortillas, are the staple food of the Mexicans. The maize is softened by being boiled with a little lime, and is ground on a stone grinding-board called metate. It is then mixed with water into a thick paste, rolled into pancake form, and baked in an earthenware dish. Tortillas figure at every meal, and are sold hot from chafing-dishes in the streets

Photo, C. Rider Noble

MEXICO & THE MEXICANS

capital, was the favourite residence of Maximilian and Charlotte, and ever since their time has been thronged in the spring by Mexicans and foreigners, drawn to it by the beauty of its surroundings, especially the magnificent view from the ridge on which it is built over a deep gorge and a perspective of hills rising gradually until they culminate in the snowy tops of the immense volcanoes, Popocatepetl and Ixtacihuatl, which are seen so clearly also

of them with silver spurs to their heels or gold lace on their huge, high-coned shady hats. The Indian women's costume is a long cotton veil drawn over the head, just the dress of Old Testament times. On a Sunday many a horseman may be seen on his way to town carrying his wife on a pillion behind him or on his saddle in front.

When the mornings are fresh and the sun at midday scorching, you understand the value and good sense of the



FRIENDLY PLANT OF THE MEXICAN HOUSEHOLDER

The peculiar Mexican growth is the cactus, turned to innumerable uses, nearly every species of which is to be found growing in grotesque form and thriving where no other vegetation could exist. The particular variety seen above furnishes the people of Mexico with fruits, sweetmeats, molasses, vinegar, furniture, and paper, and is therefore a never-failing friend to the needy native

from Mexico city. Lake Chapala is farther away, but well repays the journey. Here it is summer always, but the nights are cool; wheat and oranges grow on the same farms, for this seventy-mile-long lake among the mountains is five thousand feet up, which accounts for the dry and equable climate, suited to almost every kind of cultivation.

In this district the Indian or mestizo small farmers wear tight grey jackets and riding trousers of grey cloth, some

Indians clinging to their zarapes or blankets. One needs some kind of covering in the early part of the day, and the blanket is easily disposed of when it is no longer required for warmth. A walker will fold it neatly over his left shoulder, a horseman uses it as a saddle-cloth. With light clothes and a blanket one could be comfortable and secure against chills in all the many climates of this fascinating, endlessly varied, and sunshiny land.



GRAND PLAZA OF MEXICO CITY, SHOWING THE CATHEDRAL ON THE LEFT AND THE NATIONAL PALACE ON THE RIGHT
 The main thoroughfares of Mexico city meet in the Plaza Major. Here, overlooking the broad square, fringed by several important edifices, stands the city's pride, the Cathedral of Mexico. Begun in 1573, on the site of Montezuma's human sacrifices, and finished in 1730, it is said to be the most magnificent in the New World, but successive spoliations have robbed it of several of its beauties. Its most valuable possession is the Aztec Calendar-Stone, a remarkable monument carved with many figures and hieroglyphs, a relic of the former glories of an older civilization

Mexico

II. From Toltec & Aztec to Modern Republic

By C. R. Enock

Author of "Mexico," "Peru," etc.

MEXICO, the ancient land of the Toltecs and the Aztecs, the New Spain of Cortés, the famous conquistador, and the long line of Spanish viceroys, and the turbulent republic of subsequent times, may be regarded as the most interesting land, whether geographically or historically, of the three Americas; a land with many elements of romance, and one which nature, in certain respects, has richly endowed. It is, moreover, the land where the two civilizations of the New World—the Spanish American and the Anglo-American—roll together but never mingle, divided from each other only by a narrow stream, dry in its season, the erratic Rio Grande.

Physiographically the country consists of a great tapering mainland terminating in the isthmus of Tehuantepec, when it again widens out into the peculiar peninsula of Yucatan; and on the Pacific side is the narrow peninsula, nearly a thousand miles long, of Lower California, into whose gulf enters the great Colorado river. The mainland consists of a vast central plateau, sloping upwards from an elevation of about 4,000 feet on the United States border to more than 8,000 feet near the city of Mexico, a tableland whose edges, viewed from the littoral of the Atlantic and the Pacific respectively, present the aspect of great rugged mountains, which, in fact, they are—cordilleras known, the one as the Sierra Madre Oriental, and the other as the Sierra Madre Occidental—the plateau representing in the main a filled-in trough, levelled by the discharge from bygone volcanoes and the deep soil of the weathered rocks.

Origin of the American Aborigines

The history of Mexico is divided into three main periods: that of the Aztec kingdom, that of the colonial period of the Spanish viceroys, followed by the brief monarchical regimen of Iturbide, and again later of Maximilian, and that of the republic. There was, however, as in Peru and kindred lands, an earlier culture-period than that which the Spanish conquest terminated so ruthlessly—that of the Toltecs and the Maya, whose monuments and remains would argue a development from times contemporaneous with the cultures of Assyria and Egypt. The Toltecs are supposed to have come

"out of the north." Their origin opens the difficult question as to whether the ancient American cultures were autochthonous, or in some way derived from the Old World of Asia and Egypt. It is generally considered that the aboriginal folk of the Americas are of Mongoloid extraction, and their features to-day often markedly show it; possibly having come into the twin continents at that time when, before the severance of Bering Strait—the shores of Asia and America even now are visible the one from the other—there was continuous land connexion between the Old World and the New; or junks with emigrants may have drifted across the Pacific to the shores of California and Mexico, as they have in modern times.

Toltec, Maya, and Aztec Civilization

The principal remains attributed to the Toltecs are the huge adobe pyramids of the sun and moon at Teotihuacan, some distance from the city of Mexico, and the remarkable Aztec Calendar-Stone was doubtless a reproduction from the Toltec calendar, embodying a time-system of a character such as the ancient Oriental nations used, and was more accurate than that employed, at the time of the conquest, by Europeans. The invention of the Mexican system of picture-writing is also ascribed to the Toltecs. The mystic Quetzalcoatl was their legendary hero. Another famous figure of pre-historic Mexico was that of Nezahualcoyotl, the "Solomon of Mexico," whose psalms, written to the "Unknown God" in the golden age of Texcoco, are in their imagery like the psalms of David, in some respects.

The Maya civilization has left its principal evidences in Yucatan, in the beautiful sculptured temples now buried in the jungle, structures which astonished Europe when first discovered and described, and which were in ruins at the advent of the Spaniards.

The Aztec civilization, which appears to have been inferior to that which it succeeded, began probably in the eleventh (possibly twelfth) century A.D., and was in its zenith under the emperor Montezuma when Cortés and his followers, landing where Vera Cruz now stands, on Good Friday, 1519, ascended to Tenochtitlan, the ancient city of Mexico, and

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overthrew it. This was not accomplished without a long and terrible struggle, for the Aztecs were a race of warriors, and nearly exterminated the invaders on one occasion, from which only a super-human effort, at the battle of Otumba, saved them.

The story of the conquest of Mexico is perhaps the most thrilling in American history, although unfortunately the tale of Spanish valour is marred by shameful episodes, among them the torture and murder of Guahtemoc, the last of the Aztecs. The whole conquest was indeed an unwarrantable act, and it is unfortunate that no attempt was made to perpetuate and develop the early Mexican culture, which, like that of Peru, had many excellent institutions.

Mexico as a Spanish Viceroyalty

From the time of the conquest to that of independence in 1821-22 Mexico was ruled—after the brief regimen of the Audiencias—by a succession of sixty-four viceroys, from Antonio de Mendoza (1535-50) to Juan O'Donojú (1821-22). The country was one of the four great viceroyalties, of which the others were those of New Granada, Buenos Aires, and Peru. Spanish rule brought much that was good and fine into it, and stamped the elements of a great civilization upon it, together with Christianity as represented by the Roman Catholic religion.

Beautiful cathedrals, churches, and other structures were built all over the country in the colonial period, and remain as attractive monuments to-day, giving an old-world atmosphere to Mexico such as Anglo-America does not possess. But the Spaniards ever regarded the Mexicans as a conquered race, and there was political, religious, and economic oppression. The Spaniards, except in few cases, did not bring their women with them, and the resulting alliance with the native women formed the Mexican nation of to-day, a mixture of European and aboriginal blood, with certain defects but with many good qualities, and with their future before them.

Growing Discontent with Spanish Rule

The Indians were long kept in subjection, and their lands apportioned to their Spanish masters, they themselves living under the system of repartimientos and encomiendas, a serf-system from which, later, that of peonage arose. The Franciscans arrived in 1524. The horrible institution of the Inquisition was introduced in 1571, but the Indians were regarded as catechumens. In the following year the Jesuits established themselves, and did much to educate the folk and explore the country. Negro slavery never

took firm hold except upon the coast; the negro does not flourish in the colder uplands.

In the seventeenth century, after the capture of Jamaica by the British, English and other explorers and buccaneers harassed the seaports and interrupted Spanish convoys. The expulsion of the Jesuits, in 1767, was greatly resented, and the act was one of the elements that gave rise to that discontent which was finally to overthrow Spanish rule. Other factors tending towards independence were the commercial system maintained by the mother country, which hampered the economic progress of the colonists and took away the wealth they created to Spain, the heavy taxation, the often corrupt courts and officials, the prohibition of vine-growing, and other arbitrary matters. "Learn to be silent and obey, and not discuss politics," was the dictum of a later viceroy. Life, however, was not necessarily hard or difficult for the colony; it offered considerable attractions, and vast fortunes were made in the mines. But independence was in the air, and grievances real and fancied of colonists everywhere now made themselves heard.

Birth of the Mexican Republic

The mutterings of independence were first heard in Mexico in the grito or cry of Hidalgo, the warrior-priest, of "Death to bad government!" and he was followed by another famous fighting cleric, Morelos. But disaster overtook these patriots; Hidalgo was defeated and executed, after bloody excesses between opposing forces, and a similar fate overtook Morelos in 1815. However, the French Revolution had done its work even in Mexico, as had the Independence of the United States, while the acts of the unlawful rulers of Spain, Napoleon and Joseph Bonaparte, similarly contributed to the fall of Spanish rule in the colonies, which now tottered to its end.

In 1822 that revolutionary tendency, and the cross-currents of political and clerical movements, culminated in severance, and Mexico began her independent history with a monarch, the ill-fated Iturbide, who, as head of the royalist army, had been despatched to crush the rebellion. He turned to espouse the cause of the patriots, and was elected emperor by the Mexican congress. Under Iturbide's brief rule Mexico was the third largest empire in the world, embracing Texas, California, New Mexico, all of modern Mexico, and Guatemala. But the star of Iturbide soon set. Crowned with great pomp and ceremony in the beautiful cathedral of the capital in 1822, he was forced to abdicate in the following

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year, went to Europe, returned, and was executed by the Mexicans.

The birth of the Mexican republic followed. It had as attendant circumstances the pretensions of the Holy Alliance and the enunciation of the Monroe Doctrine. Its first president was Guerrero, almost a full-blooded Indian. Britain recognized the republic in 1825, and under a treaty of friendship British capital began development of the country's resources. The United States similarly acknowledged Mexican independence, but there were territorial disputes which later involved the two republics in war.

The first national constitution was proclaimed in October, 1824, by the Federal Congress, and it might have been hoped that peace and the prosperous development of this rich land would have resulted. Fate, however, ordained otherwise, and the half century following was one of almost continuous political strife and bloody turmoil up to the time of the first presidency of Porfirio Diaz, such as, if rivalled by other Spanish American states, has not been anywhere surpassed in the history of the world.

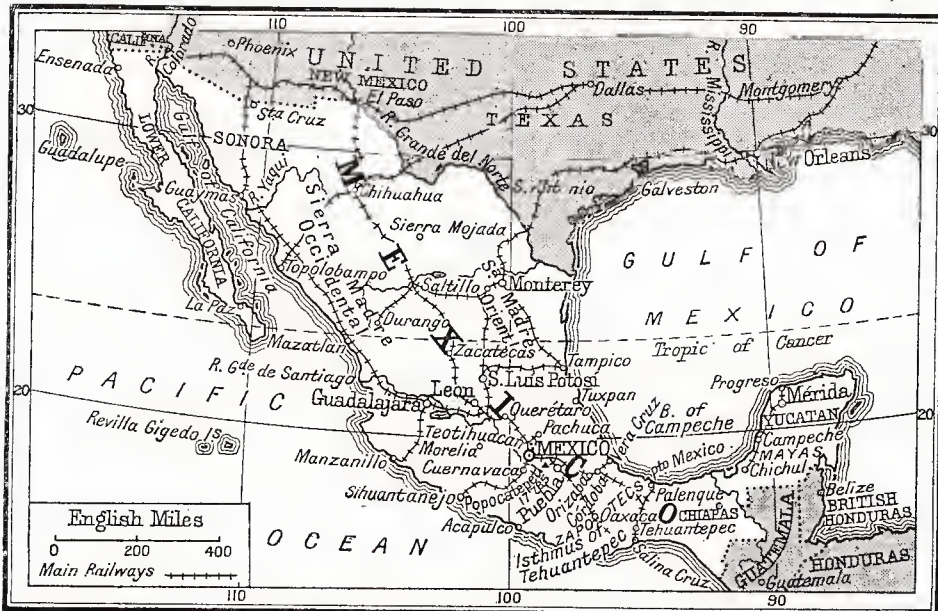
These disorders were the result of political ambition, of unscrupulous dictators and revolutionists, dissolute military leaders, antagonism between the people and their rulers, and the extortionate and fanatical behaviour of the Church.

Under the Reform Laws of the famous President Juarez—full-blooded Indian, lawyer, and talented man of affairs, and of integrity—the Church in 1857 was overthrown and its vast property confiscated

to the nation. In the early republican period there were compacts with Spain and with France. The two political parties, Centralists and Federalists, were followed by or merged into Conservative and Liberal.

In 1845 the disastrous war with the United States began over the question of Texas. Much earlier the Mexican Government, to their credit, had prohibited slavery in that territory, a system which American settlers and filibusters, however, wished to uphold. Texas became an independent state in 1836, and had later applied for admission to the United States, which, at first refused, was afterwards accorded. But there was still territory in dispute, and in the resulting conflicts between Mexicans, Texans, and Americans, long, savage fighting took place, and the committal of barbarities, especially on the part of the Mexicans. The final result was the loss by Mexico of all her territory north of the Rio Grande, and the Mexicans have never forgiven their northern neighbours. The Americans invaded the city of Mexico, despite heroic resistance (1847), after which a treaty of peace was signed.

The advent of Juarez, who became president in 1861, was preceded by terrible political murders as a result of civil warfare between the Conservatives and Liberals, but the latter party, with Juarez at their head, triumphed. The country, however, was bankrupt, and Mexico temporarily suspended payment on all public and foreign debts. As a result of this action, under a tripartite convention of France, Spain, and Britain, an



THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO AND ITS PEOPLE

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expedition was sent to Vera Cruz to exact reparation. This being satisfied, the British and Spanish withdrew, but the French forces of Napoleon III. perfidiously remained and drove Juarez and his adherents—among them Porfirio Diaz—from the capital.

Tragedy of the Emperor Maximilian

This aggressive policy was in accordance with the dream or "inspiration" of Napoleon to establish a Catholic Latin empire in Mexico, enthusiasm for which he vainly strove to arouse in the French. Upon it follows the pathetic and ill-fated figure and regime of the Hapsburg Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian of Austria. Maximilian accepted the crown, subject to the approval of the Mexican people, which a junta of prominent Mexicans, mainly Conservatives and Clericals, friendly to the French and to an aristocratic regime offered him, and he was crowned Emperor of Mexico with great solemnity in the cathedral in 1864. But the Liberal Party, under Juarez, who had established himself in the north, declared war to the death against the monarchical system—in which he was supported by the Monroe Doctrine—while the active Diaz captured Puebla, the second city of importance in the country, and turned the tables on the royalists.

Maximilian's cause failed, for Napoleon withdrew the French troops and abandoned him, despite the heroic efforts of the Empress Charlotte to win further support for her husband, and the question arose whether he should abdicate or fight. He chose the latter course, withdrew to Querétaro, disdaining flight or escape when such was still possible, and entrenched his army in the town. But partly by treachery, added to the onslaught of the Liberal forces, the place fell. Faithful to the end, Maximilian was captured and sentenced to death by Juarez and Lerdo. Upon the hill outside Querétaro he faced the file of soldiers, standing between two of his devoted Mexican generals, Miramon and Mejia, also to be executed, offering each in turn the place of honour in the centre, which they refused; and as the carbines rang out he fell forward dead, and thus passed the dream of empire in Mexico.

Dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz

The execution was an unworthy act, and stained the Mexican name, for one party of Mexicans themselves had offered him the throne, which he occupied for three years. Maximilian, in some respects, was weak, but he had many good qualities—he was no bigoted Churchman, he was much in sympathy with Liberal ideas, and had refused to rescind the Reform

Laws. For a short time Benito Juarez took the reins of government, and was followed by Lerdo de Tejada, who fled in 1876.

The dominating figure of Porfirio Diaz now occupies the stage. Half an Indian, on his mother's side, Diaz was superior to the ordinary revolutionary general, a man of many parts and a statesman, but he came through chaos to power as a revolutionist, shedding his own countrymen's blood; and after a long and remarkable dictatorship which was almost that of an absolute monarch, himself barely escaped the bloody fate he had meted out to others, both before and during his presidency. He was declared president in 1877, and notwithstanding a law passed in that year forbidding re-election of a president within four years of a first term of office, he succeeded himself time after time, with but one interval, that of Manuel Gonzalez, 1880-84.

His rule was, however, generally beneficial to the country. The lawlessness under which bands of robbers infested the highways, with other disorders, was put down with a firm hand, and few revolutionists dared to raise their heads; foreign colonisation was encouraged, railway and harbour construction with national and foreign capital was carried out, home manufacture was stimulated under protective tariffs, foreign debts were arranged, education advanced, as did the economic life of the country, and after 1896 there were substantial surpluses, as against former deficits in the annual budgets.

Distraction and Slow Recuperation

A strong centralised and personal rule overawed all adverse factors, yet this was expressed in general under federal and democratic forms. The respect of foreign nations, which had been impossible under former rulers, who had given Mexico a degraded name abroad, was earned, and it was supposed that the country had entered upon its true *floreCIMIENTO*—as native writers put it—its stable political and economic development, such as might ensure for the republic leadership of the Latin American nations.

Unfortunately, this bright and not unnatural outlook was confounded, for early in the second decade of the twentieth century there was a recurrence of revolutionary trouble, and in May, 1911, Diaz was driven from office, where he had been thought to be impregnable, and he died an exile in Spain. The errors of his rule were in failure to advance the economic status of the great bulk of the people, consisting of miserably poor *Mestizos* and Indians, the too-generous handing over of concessions of national property and resources to foreign

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capitalists and company promoters, especially American, and failure to build up a generation of moderate and enlightened office holders. Like most autocrats he depended too much upon personal prestige and power, with insufficient support when, with advancing age, the many enemies his iron rule had made combined against him.

Upon the fall of Diaz the country was once more plunged into revolution, and successive dictators were set up, with the accompaniment of terrible political murders, massacre of foreign citizens, embroilments with the United States and with Britain following on such excesses, and economic and financial ruin. Francisco I. Madero ruled from Nov. 6, 1911, until Feb., 1913, when he was murdered, his successor being Victoriano Huerta, who resigned in July, 1914. General Carranza was head of the government from Dec., 1915, until 1920, when Alvaro Obregon was elected.

In the Great War of 1914-18 Mexico played an ignoble part, apparently espousing the German cause under an ill-veiled neutrality, with direct antagonism to the United States. Since the war some measure of order has grown up again, with recognition of the government abroad and a disposition on the part of the authorities to respect foreign property in the republic, but recuperation is slow.

The Mexican people are worthy of a better reputation and destiny than their political leaders have brought upon them. Their upper class represents a highly refined and sensitive civilization; their women are handsome, faithful, and peculiarly devout; the lower classes are not by nature turbulent, but are industrious and loyal; and whenever any true political and economic leadership shall grow into being the Mexicans may be expected to take their proper place in the world of nations.

MEXICO : FACTS AND FIGURES

The Country

Land of southern North America, situated approximately between 14° and 29° north latitude and between 90° and 115° west longitude. Coast-line of over 1,500 miles on Atlantic and over 2,000 miles on Pacific. About six-sevenths of total area of 767,198 square miles is high and much broken plateau, bordered east, north, and south by mountains sloping steeply to coastal plains. Population estimated at about 17,000,000, including about 116,500 foreigners (Spanish 29,500; natives of U.S.A., 28,600).

Government and Constitution

Federative Republic under constitution of February 5, 1917, amending that of 1857; divided into twenty-eight states, one federal district, and two territories. Each state has a right to manage its own local affairs. Legislative power vested in Congress (Senate and House of Representatives), and executive in President, who is elected for four years only. Representatives elected for two years by universal suffrage, one member for 60,000 inhabitants. During Congressional recess there is a permanent committee of fourteen senators and fifteen representatives. Administration carried on under direction of President, council, and seven secretaries of state.

Defence

Nominal strength of army in 1920 was 119,000. Before the revolution every Mexican capable of bearing arms had to serve in active army or national guard. Navy, in effect a police force, includes seven gunboats, a few torpedo boats, two armed transports, and some smaller vessels.

Commerce and Industries

Soil rich and well suited for agriculture. Temperature varies from tropical and sub-tropical to temperate. Millions of acres virgin soil and large areas only partly developed. Cultivated lands, about 30,000,000 acres; pastoral 120,400,000 acres; forest lands, 43,900,000 acres.

Chief products: Maize, henequen, wheat, cotton, coffee, beans. Large output of sugar and molasses. Production of spirits increasing. Over 1,200 tobacco factories. Timber includes pine, spruce, cedar, mahogany, logwood, and rosewood. Livestock (1920): Over 2,160,000 cattle, 929,000 horses, 354,000 mules, 288,000 asses, 1,090,000 sheep, 1,988,000 goats, and 1,654,000 pigs.

Over 330 productive oil wells, yielding more than 1,337,000 barrels daily. Mineral wealth immense; mining carried on in twenty-four of the states and territories, nearly all mines yielding silver. Opals are mined in Querétaro, coal in Coahuila. Total value of exports to United Kingdom in 1921, £9,859,094; imports from United Kingdom, £4,595,560. Monetary unit, gold peso or dollar: normal value 24.58 pence.

Communications

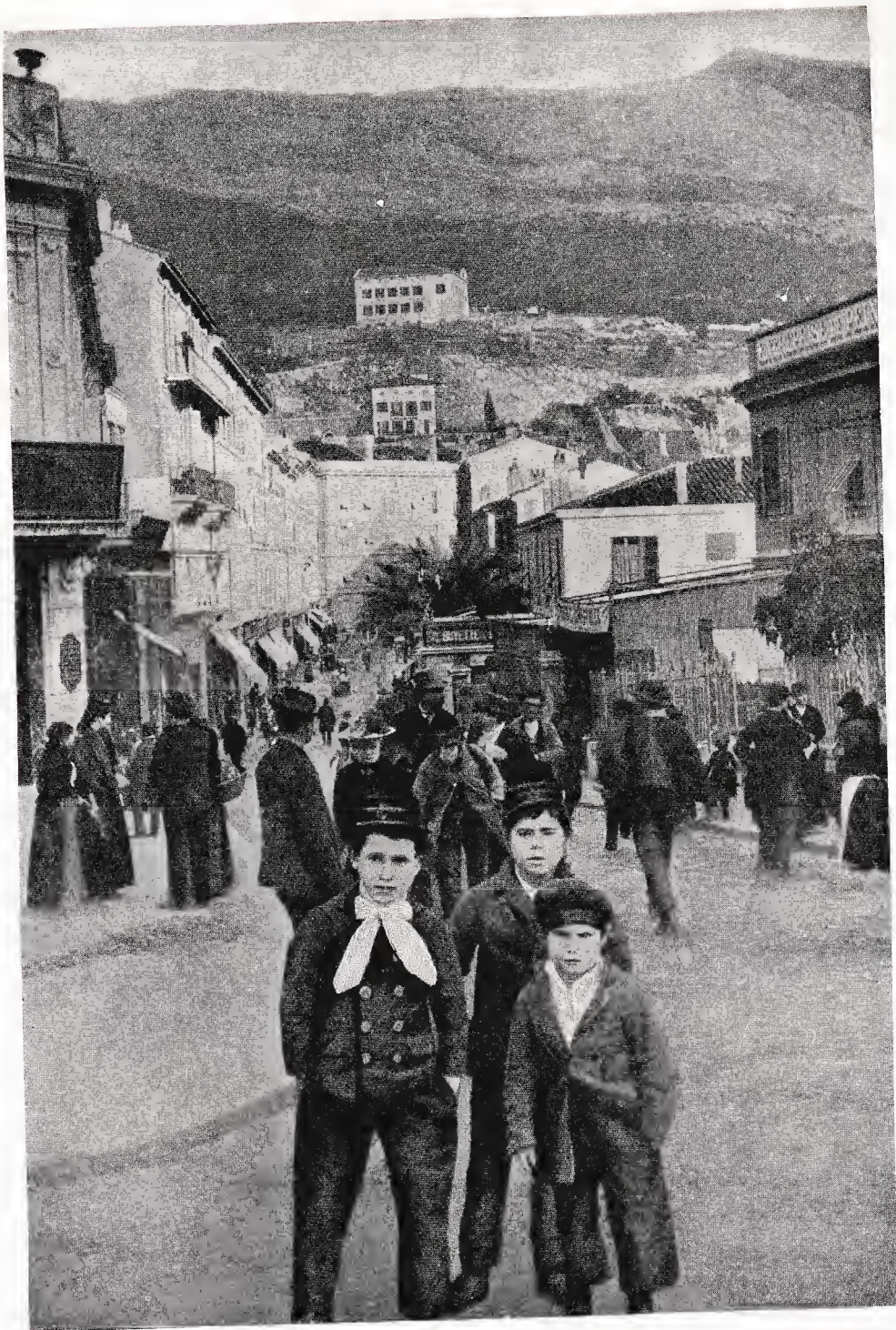
Total railway mileage, over 15,000. National railways own 6,818 miles of track and control 1,220 miles in addition. Federal telegraph and telephone lines, 110,530 miles. There are over twenty-five wireless stations, including one in the island of Lobos off the coast of Tampico. Chief ports, Vera Cruz and Tampico.

Religion and Education

Prevailing religion, Roman Catholic. Other religions tolerated, but no ecclesiastical body can acquire landed property. Education free, compulsory, and secular; primary education extended since 1912 to native population. A national university was organized in federal capital in 1910.

Chief Towns

Mexico (capital, estimated population, 1,080,000), Guadalajara (119,500), Puebla (96,000), Monterey (73,500), San Luis Potosí (68,000), Mérida (62,400), Leon (57,700), Vera Cruz (48,600), Aguascalientes (45,000), Morelia (40,000), Chihuahua (39,700), Pachuca (39,000), Oaxaca (38,000), Guanajuato (35,700), Saltillo (35,400), Orizaba (35,300).



WHERE HEIGHTS OF ROCK OVERTOP LA CONDAMINE'S GAY STREETS

Lying between the railway and the shores of the little bay that forms Monaco's harbour is La Condamine, the newest of the principality's three towns. Sea-bathing is among its main attractions, and there is, besides, commercial enterprise in the manufacture of liqueurs and perfumes. In this street, with its close-clustered houses and restaurants, are seen some of the indigenous population